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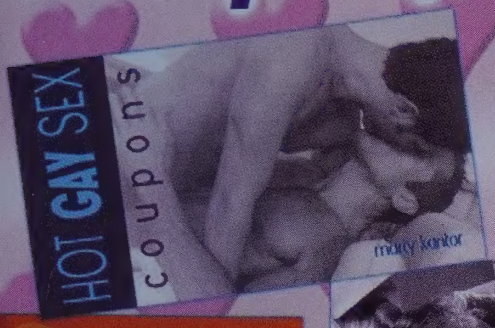
Wrap Up Valentine's Day @ OUTWRITE!



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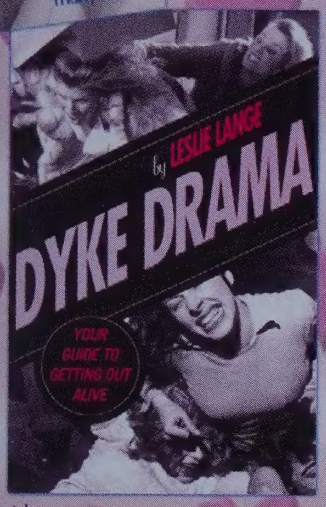

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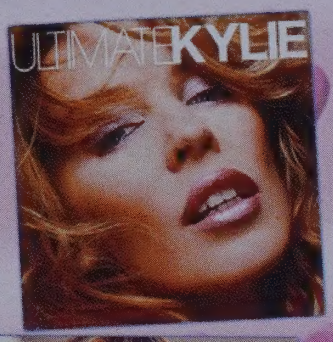

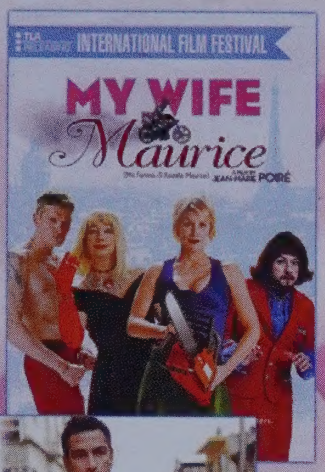

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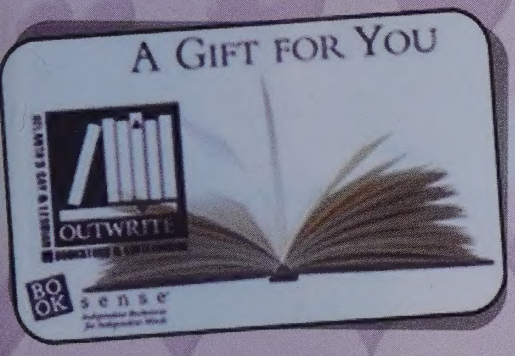

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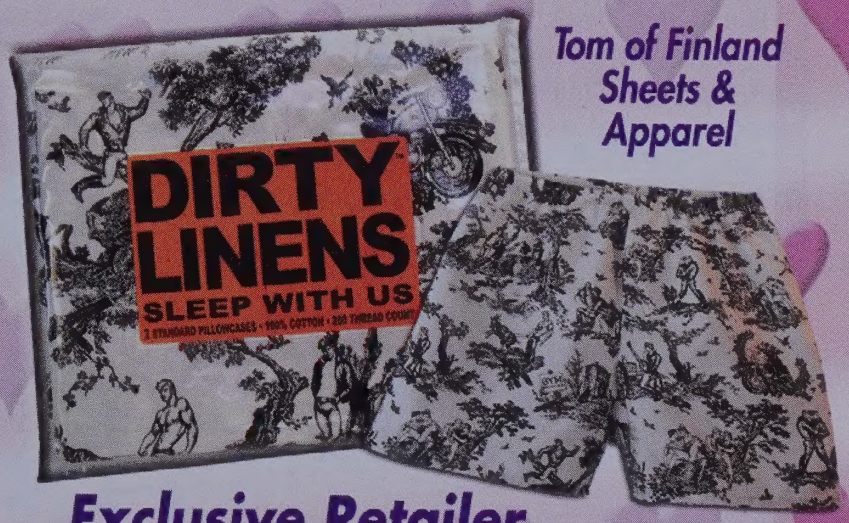

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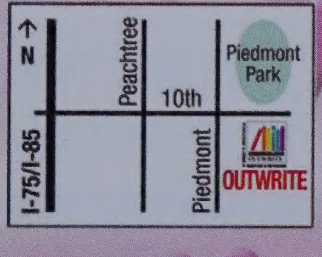

EDITOR'S NOTE

The 'L' word is driving me nuts.

No, I'm not referring to the dyke-tastic soap opera on Showtime (though you should tune into next week's David for more on that topic).

The word that's been haunting me might be an unexpected one: "Lover." As in, "Come have drinks with my lover and me."

Am I alone in cringing every time that word is uttered?

Granted, I'm not the first homo hack to write about the glaring lack of fitting nomenclature for guys we see, date, commit to and now even marry. Lesbian journalist Deb Price once wrote that the love that dare not speak its name now doesn't even know its name.

The problem persists today. "Boyfriend" can come off as too flip, and it makes me feel like I'm in high school again. Cue the Mariah Carey song.

At the same time, I stutter anytime asks about my "partner." I'm thinking, did we start a business together? Are we incorporated?

But "lover," well, that just sounds nasty.

A certain friend and I used to spend lots of time together, which led to rampant speculation that we were actually dating.

"No," we'd say, laying on a thick, vaguely Russian accent, "we're not dating. We're *lovahs*."

But the people I've heard using the "lover" label lately are doing so with no such accent — and not one ounce of irony. I'd like to think it's a generational thing, but one recent offender was younger than me. Can you really call someone your "lover" when you're both 24?

Lovers, that is our coupled readers, might not find much love in this week's *David*. Despite our festive Valentine cover, the crux of our V-Day coverage aims more at single people. John Brown serves up a delicious dining column with tips on how to eat at a restaurant with only your favorite person — yourself. In Perspectives, John Ballew suggests that single guys should celebrate their status. And Christopher Stevens takes a look back at how the whole Valentine mess got started.

For the coupled or the curious, our cover story this week answers the burning question, "Who the heck is the majorette guy marching up and down Monroe Drive?" We caught up with Baton Bob, the Ambassador of Mirth, for a few thoughts on finding happiness. Turns out his character was created to spread merriment in our dreary post-9-11 world.

You gotta love that.

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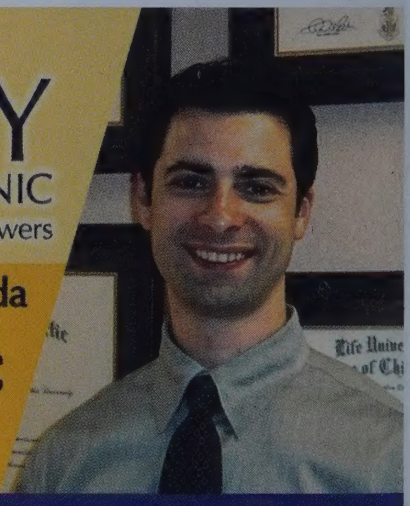

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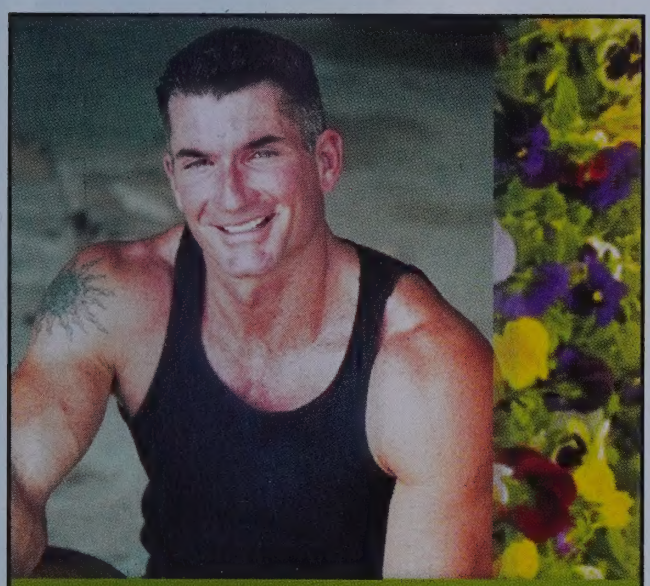

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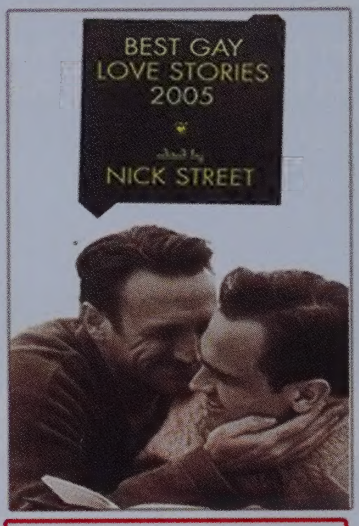

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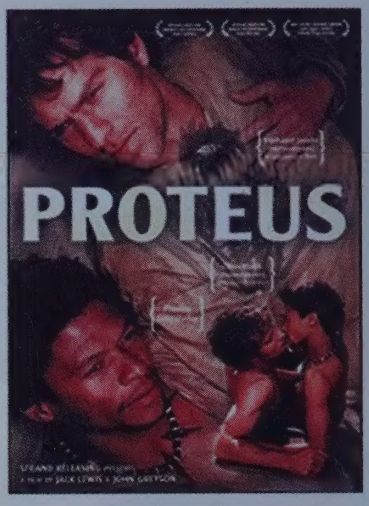

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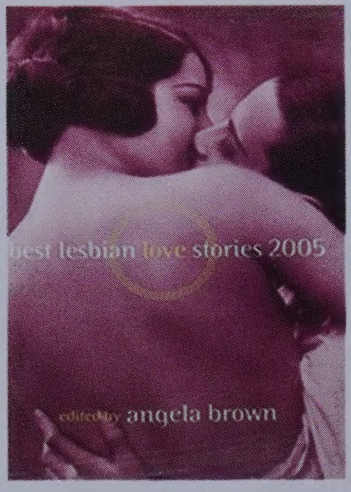

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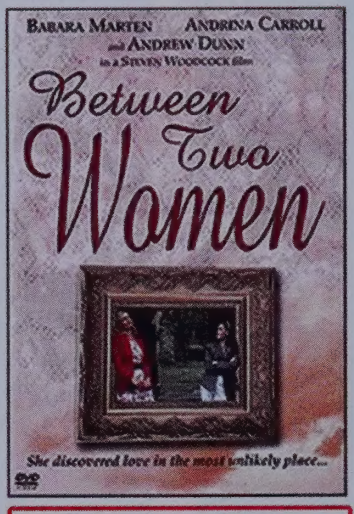

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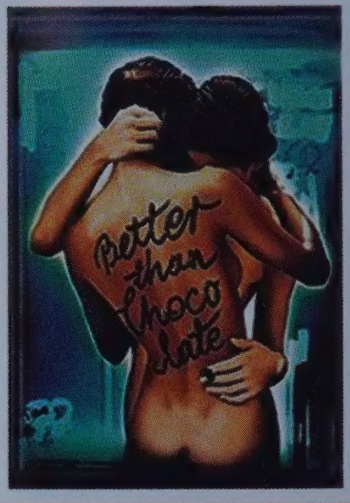

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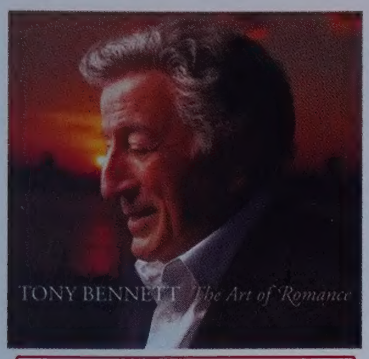

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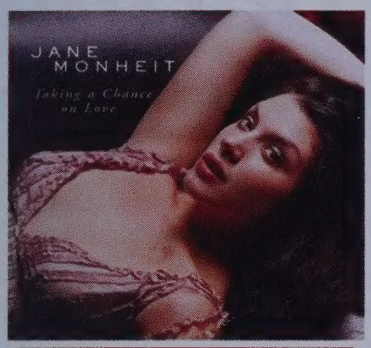

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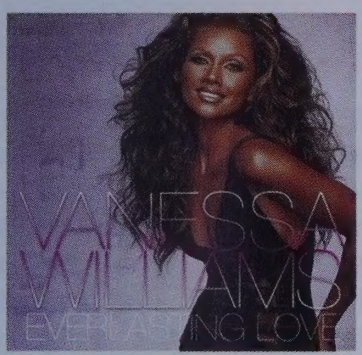

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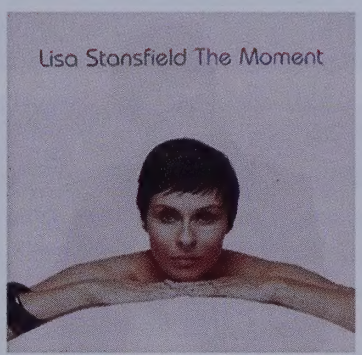

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GUEST LIST BY ARMAN D. REYES

WHO GOT IN,
WHO WAS LEFT OFF
AND WHO SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE

If weather permits

Powerless Power, forgetful Amnesia and through a monsoon for a tsunami benefit

"I'M NOT LEAVING MY HOUSE."

It seems we heard that more times during the last weekend of January than we've ever heard in our lives. If there's one wicked force that can prevent the 'mos from hitting the streets, it's the diva of all divas, **Mother Nature**.

First came the sleet or ice (or whatever). And, with the gays' penchant for their perfectly sculpted bed-head hairstyles, additional moisture just will not do. Plus, it was cold. You want me to wear a jacket over this body? Are you kidding? Add to the equation loss of power and the end result is crickets in every bar that braved Ice Storm '05 and actually opened their doors.

Well, we had a game plan. We figured since we live right off Cheshire Bridge anyway that it was a minimal risk to check out Jungle for a quick second. That plus the roomie was out of town and left keys to the SUV. Our dear friend **Bill Berdeaux** was behind the decks for their Flashback Fridays and made us go through changes. Bill was kind enough to play back-to-back favorites from Depeche Mode, Vanity 6 and even New Order's "True Faith." The few people there couldn't pry themselves off the floor.

We heard the temperature dropped another five degrees and we took that as our cue to get back home. Saturday was a bust too as Traxx became an additional statistic in the growing number of blackouts in the ATL. Volume Productions was forced to postpone the appearance of Power due to, well, the lack of power. The boys more than made up for it on Sunday when Power agreed to extend her stay and play for them. The cabin-fevered crowd was more than relieved Power graciously extended her stay but did all the cancelled flights have any influence on her decision? Maybe just a lil' bit.

FORGET IT

Since you guys brought up T-Dances and flights, we can't help but touch up on Midtown Productions' Amnesia event. Like quite a few people, we received an e-mail early Sunday afternoon that included the same copy found on the ad promoting the appearance of **Mark Tarbox**. When those people arrived at Club 112, they got the news that Mark was unable to take the flight into Atlanta.

We can understand if that information was unavailable for that last mass e-mail, but in this case we'll chalk it up to a case of Amnesia.

PLANT LIFE

By Monday evening, most of the ice had melted away, but we opted to follow the advice we got over the weekend and "not leave the house." By Tuesday, our cabin fever had returned and it was off to the Fox Theatre for "The Little Shop of Horrors." We're not big fans of musicals (with the exceptions of "Moulin Rouge," "Chicago" and "Hedwig & the Angry Inch"), but we had a great time and found a new appreciation for the whole nerdy school boy look. Yes, feed me Seymour, indeed.

DJ CRAIG SPY'S TOP 10

1. Suzanne Palmer **"Home"**
2. Destiny's Child **"Soldier"**
3. Visa **"Fly Away"**
4. Nina Sky **"Turnin' Me On"**
5. Shania Twain **"Party For Two"**
6. Darren Hayes **"Popular"**
7. Monica **"U Should've Known Better"**
8. Gwen Stefani **"Rich Girl"**
9. Casey Stratton **"House of Jupiter"**
10. Debby Holiday **"Half a Mile Away"**

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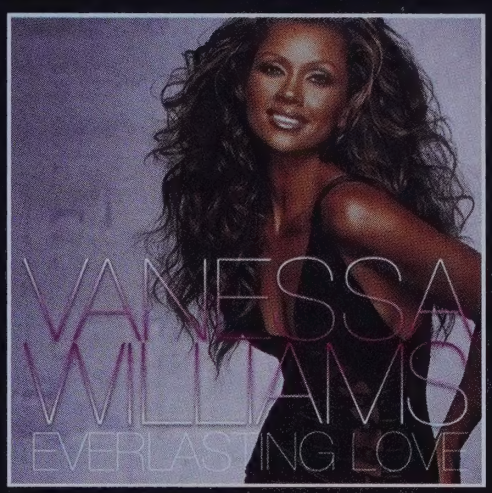
9. Gwen Stefani **"Love Angel Music Baby"**
10. Tina Turner **"All the Best"**



Afterwards, it was over to Blake's for a quick cocktail and their Drag Gone Wild show. We were pleasantly surprised to see that **Alicia Kelly** had joined the cast of Atlanta's Grossest Drag Queen, **Mary Edith Pitts** and the Dancing Diva, **Shawnna Brooks**. As usual, Mary had the crowd rushing for more shots and Shawnna had them clapping their hands and stomping their feet.

On hump night, we decided it was about that time for some Community Service work, so it was over to Burkhart's to support their Tsunami Relief benefit, "Hope." The show, hosted by Burkhart's resident divas **Kitty LeClaw** and Mary Edith Pitts, had a lineup of Atlanta's favorite entertainers donating their time and effort for UNICEF. Several gift baskets and prizes were donated for their silent auction from local businesses.

Unfortunately, the weather played another wicked role in the night and a few people opted to avoid the monsoon altogether, saying "I'm not leaving my house." ■

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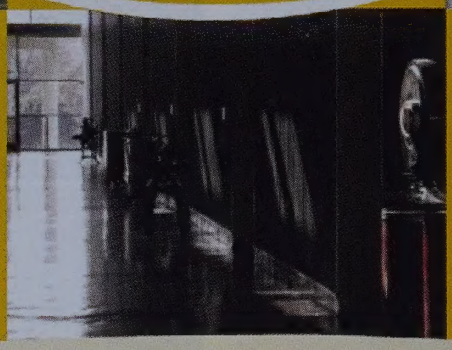

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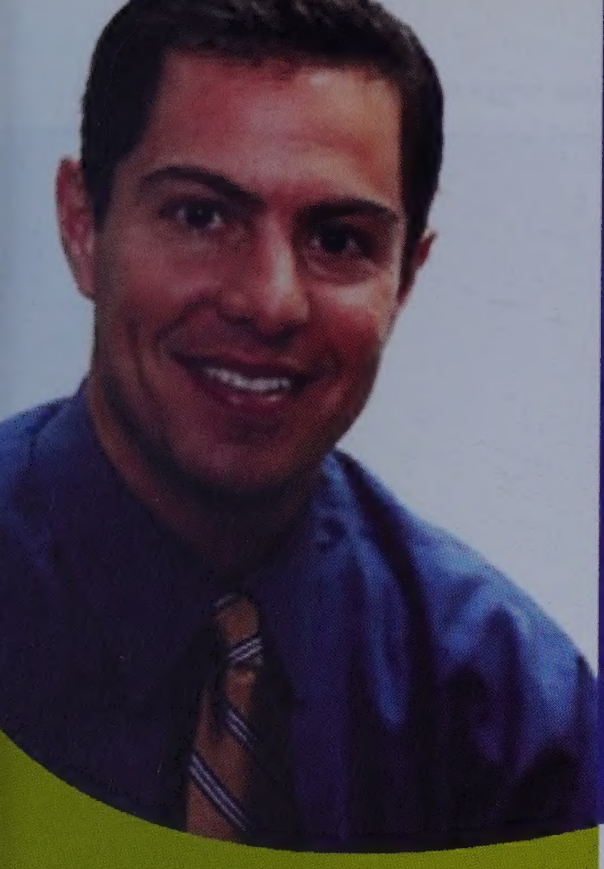

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THE MAN BEHIND THE MIRTH

Baton Bob, the Ambassador of Mirth, spreads joy to Midtown. (Just don't call him a drag queen.)

LOOKING FOR CUPID THIS VALENTINE'S DAY? You just might spot him marching down Piedmont Avenue.

Midtown's very own mascot, Baton Bob, promises to be delivering joy and possibly a few love connections this Feb. 14. His exact costume is yet to be revealed, but you can bet it'll be as fabulous as the festive outfits he wears year round while marching through town, twirling his baton.

And if you're an adventurous gift giver, you can even hire Bob to surprise your Valentine with a custom bouquet he'll specially create out of his own floral design business and deliver in costume.

So just who is this baton twirling man?

To find out, we cornered Bob near his home by Piedmont Park and begged to hear his story. The first thing you should know is: Don't call him a drag queen. He's a "costumed entertainer," specifically the Ambassador of Mirth, a title bestowed upon him by the media in his former residence of St. Louis, where he originated the character. Here's what he had to say.

***David:* How did this character come about?**

Baton Bob: The character evolved four years ago, shortly after 9-11. I was a flight attendant with American Airlines. Prior to that I had been seeing a therapist about some personal issues, and one of them was depression. One of the antidotes my therapist had given me for depression was anytime you feel yourself slipping into that mode, do something that makes you feel good. A month after 9-11, I lost my job, and I was slipping into that mode. So I went to my closet and pulled out my baton.

At the time I was living in St. Louis in the Central West End neighborhood. I started taking my baton in into Forest Park basically to twirl and lift my own spirit out of depression. The idea of costumes came to mind simply because I was watching how people were still out of it over the tragedy of 9-11. The first day I decided to go into costume, my interest was just to make people laugh because laughter is healing. And I didn't care whether they were laughing with me or at me. I just wanted to lift people's spirits for the holiday.

Why did you move to Atlanta?

I moved to Atlanta September of last year. St. Louis is a different mindset, and the people are very conservative. There was a lot of abuse going on with the character that was really deteriorating its spirit. I just got tired of the character being abused, so it was time to go. I lived in Midtown for 12 years before I went to St. Louis.

How has Atlanta treated you so far?

Honey, let me tell you: The experience that I've had in the Midtown neighborhood in the five months I've been here has been ... the experience that I thought I should have had in St. Louis. What has happened here is that people have genuinely embraced the character for what it really is.

Have you run into any conflicts in Atlanta yet?

Every now and then I might see a Georgia redneck give me the finger or yell out "faggot," but that's like water over the dam. When people are throwing negative energy and hateful stuff at you, I look at it as this: "Those are your issues, they will never be mine."

But you usually get positive feedback?

Mostly it's straight women who come out on the street and say, "You just really make my day. We look forward to you coming through just to see what you're gonna have on." This character makes a difference in their day and

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

lifts them up out of whatever drudgery they're going through in that office or driving down the street. That is really the true mission of the character. It's to lift people's spirits.

Where do you get your costumes?

I go to thrift stores, vintage clothing stores, the Salvation Army. I buy pieces and put them in my wardrobe, and I coordinate an ensemble.

Do you go out every day?

Yes, every day that's above 35 degrees.

Do you have a select route?

When I started out, I had a route. But what I'm trying to do now is venture out in different areas of Midtown. I've also trekked downtown three or four times just to get the response down there. I'm always alternating my route so I can cover more territory. I walk a good three to five miles a day.

What kind of music are you listening to?

I have an MP3 player which I download all my music onto so I can orchestrate what I want to listen to depending on what mood I'm in. I listen to a lot of music that's inspirational, vocalists like Deborah Cox, Whitney Houston, Tina Turner, Luther Vandross, Josh Groban and a lot of high energy dance music.

What is the real Bob like?

I'm just the boy next door. When I'm out of costume, I'm out of that character. I go about my day just like everybody else. ■

To order Bob's Valentine's Day experience or follow his whereabouts, join his website at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ambassadorofmirth.

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A GIRL'S GOTTA EAT BY JOHN BROWN

TABLE FOR ONE?

A single guy's primer on dining alone this Valentine's Day

IT'S A HOLIDAY THAT CONJURES UP THOUGHTS of puppy dogs with bows around their necks, heart-shaped boxes of candy, dozens of red roses and romantic, candle-lit dinners.

That is, if you're attached.

If you're single like me, Valentine's Day can mean a cheap bottle of bourbon, a spin around the Blake's fruit loop and an extra bottle of degreaser for the DVD remote. (You know what I'm talkin' about!) But does it really have to be this way?

In honor of St. Valentine (but not the subsequent massacre), I set out to prove myself wrong. Figuring that self-love has always done me right at home, why not take it to the streets and treat myself to a nice night out? You know, wine and dine my three favorite people — me, myself and I.

Now, there's nothing wrong with eating — ahem — alone. We do it all the time: at home, on trips, in our cars (we've all got McDonald's

PERSPECTIVES BY JOHN R. BALLEW

IT'S ALL ABOUT ME

Valentine's Day isn't the single guy's favorite holiday. Celebrate anyway.

SOME PEOPLE WOULD SAY IT'S NEVER EASY being single, but being single on what has been officially designated the Most Romantic Day of the Year can really seem like a trial. The whole world has been decked out in pink and red, for crying out loud. Sugary hearts and chocolates are all over the place — along with greeting cards — and if you don't have someone to give 'em to, you may feel like bingeing on the junk instead.

Take a deep breath, Single Guy. Just Say No to commercial pressure or social expectations that you've got to be hooked up to be happy. That's not romance — it's codependence. (I saw an ad in a personals column once that said, "I'll be codependent if you want me to be." Don't be this person.)

If your inclination is to feel incomplete unless you're joined at the hip to someone, this is a great time to realize that human beings don't come with missing parts supplied by some perfect lover. You're already complete, so why not start acting like it?

Defining yourself by your relationship status is for characters in '70s TV sitcoms. Feb. 14 may be the perfect day to declare your independence from the tyranny of enforced couplehood. In the words of Oscar Wilde, "To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance."

Not being half of a couple doesn't have to mean being alone. Love makes a family; chances are good that you've got a "family of choice" that may mean at least as much to you as your biological family. Recognize that you're

fries lodged somewhere underneath our car seats), or heaven forbid, right here in the ATL. I mean, that's what I've heard.

To put to rest the stigma that surrounds the single diner, you must learn to brave the surprised looks from hosts and hostesses and the confused gazes of fellow patrons. You must put on your game face. And you must be, above all else, prepared. If you look scared and lonely, you'll be perceived as scared and lonely. However, if you look intriguing and intelligent, you'll be perceived as such.

It's much easier to approach that certain cutie who dines alone than one who's in the middle of a gaggle of loud-mouthed queens.

Here are a few more tips on how to prepare to dine alone:

Take something to read. There is nothing more miserable than having ordered and having nothing to do except re-read the menu and look at the pretty artwork — for the157th times. Take a cool magazine or the latest novel. Erotic picture books are bit too much.

Dress down. You'll not want to appear too earnest. A studied slouch or a favorite sweater makes you comfortable and at ease. Above all else, you don't want to be uptight or worried about your getting pasta sauce on your new blouse.

Have a drink before you leave. One drink. Not six. The idea is to be relaxed, not tragic.

Cop a good attitude. Paranoia, depression, bewilderment and angst are not cute. Ever.

NOW TO FIGURE OUT WHERE TO TAKE YOURSELF on this hot date. In general, avoid the very finest haunts; those special meals are best savored with a friend, or — miracle upon miracles — your next date. The opposite is also true, avoid the low end. Anyone can get fast food and do you really want to sit at Subway by yourself? 'Nuff said. Choose places that are familiar and require little production. Avoid attitude and places frequented by extra large, extra loud crowds.

A few worthy suggestions:

Gilbert's: Cute and cozy with a great little bar.

Continued on page 24

part of many relationships with people who value you. Good friends mean the world. Valentine's Day may be the perfect day to let your friends know just how much they mean to you. And if you have several single friends, think about throwing a party for yourselves.

Consider doing something you could only do because you're single. For many people singleness is a choice, not a temporary condition. You've got more freedom to be spontaneous. When was the last time you took advantage of that independence? Do you know how much men in couples sometimes envy your ability to decide what you want to do and when you want to do it, all by yourself?

If you think Valentine's Day is going to be rough for you (if you've ended a relationship, for instance), take extra good care of yourself. That's especially true if the loss is recent. Let yourself grieve if you need to, but don't stop there. Consider pampering yourself with a day at a spa, or cooking yourself a good meal, or indulging in a little gift for yourself. Buy yourself flowers and put them somewhere you'll appreciate looking at them.

Don't let being sentimental turn into a depressive episode full of self-doubt.

What if you're a single guy who has just started dating someone? Valentine's Day can feel like a lot of premature pressure to proclaim someone is the love of your life. You may be wondering if you need to dazzle your new guy with your enormous capacity to be romantic.

Beware the urge to prove something or to get ahead of yourself. Dating unfolds with its own pace, and that pace isn't always in sync with holidays. Getting love right is more important than getting love right now. ■

John R. Ballew, M.S., is a licensed professional counselor in private practice in Atlanta. He specializes in issues related to coming out, sexuality and relationships and spirituality. He can be reached at 404-874-8536 or www.bodymindsoul.org.

Continued from page 23

The Mediterranean foods are healthy and relatively inexpensive and the waiters most likely single. Try the Chicken Kabobs. Next door to Blake's, just in case. 219 10th St., 404-872-8012.

Sun in My Belly: Expanded brunch menu. The bacon alone is worth the trip. Take a laptop and hunker down on one of the comfy sofas. Bed-head encouraged. Being single never looked so good! 2161 College Ave., Decatur. 404-370-1088.

La Tavola: The wide, welcoming bar is well-stocked and the service friendly. The daily specials are worth the wait. Sit where you can watch the VaHi yuppie parade go by. 992 Virginia Ave., 404-873-5430.

Zocalo: Got some time to kill before heading out? Saddle up to the bar for the Queso Fundido and the best Margaritas in town. Or sit on the railing facing the street and watch the parade of gays. 187 Tenth St., 404-249-7576.

MidCity Cuisine: Sean Doty's rockin' little hot spot will get you in the mood. Again, opt for the bar over a table. The hot, sexually ambiguous crowd plus "Peachtree Battle" play patrons makes for excellent people watching. 1545 Peachtree St., 404-888-8700.

SO YOU'VE ARRIVED INSIDE THE DOOR OF your favorite little bistro, now what?

Smile. Greet the host/hostess with a big smile. This will show her that you're fine with yourself and there's nothing wrong with "a table for one." Same goes for the server. Who knows, they just might be single, too.

Chose your own seat. Ask to sit at the bar if it's not terribly crowded. Bartenders are great conversationalists and many times they'll invite you to try a sample or two of their favorite wine or appetizer. Or, ask for a two-top with a view of the room. Never, ever sit with your back to the room.

Take your time. Remember, this is about you. Enjoy the meal. Ask questions of your server. Finish that article in the magazine. Sit and people-watch. Relax.

Choose your meal wisely. Try not to bring undue attention to yourself by ordering the flambé' or the loudly-sizzling fajitas. This is about being at ease, not causing a commotion.

Tip nicely. Karma's a bitch, y'all.

SO, BEFORE YOU FOREVER RESIGN YOURSELF to skulking around on Feb. 14 or break out the razor blades because you don't have a date, try a little self-indulgence. Take yourself out, treat yourself right and chances are you'll meet someone who likes you as much as you do. ■

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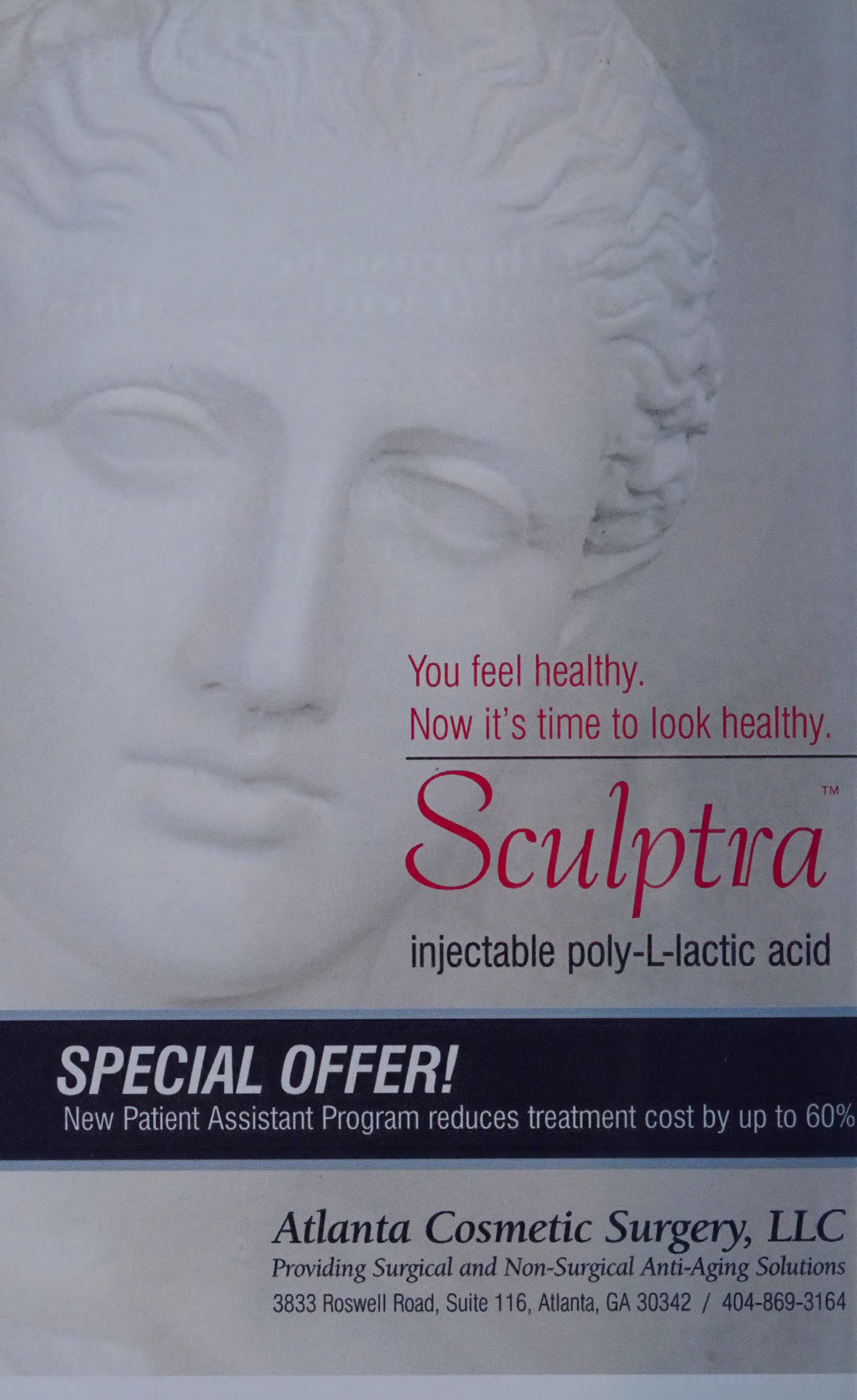

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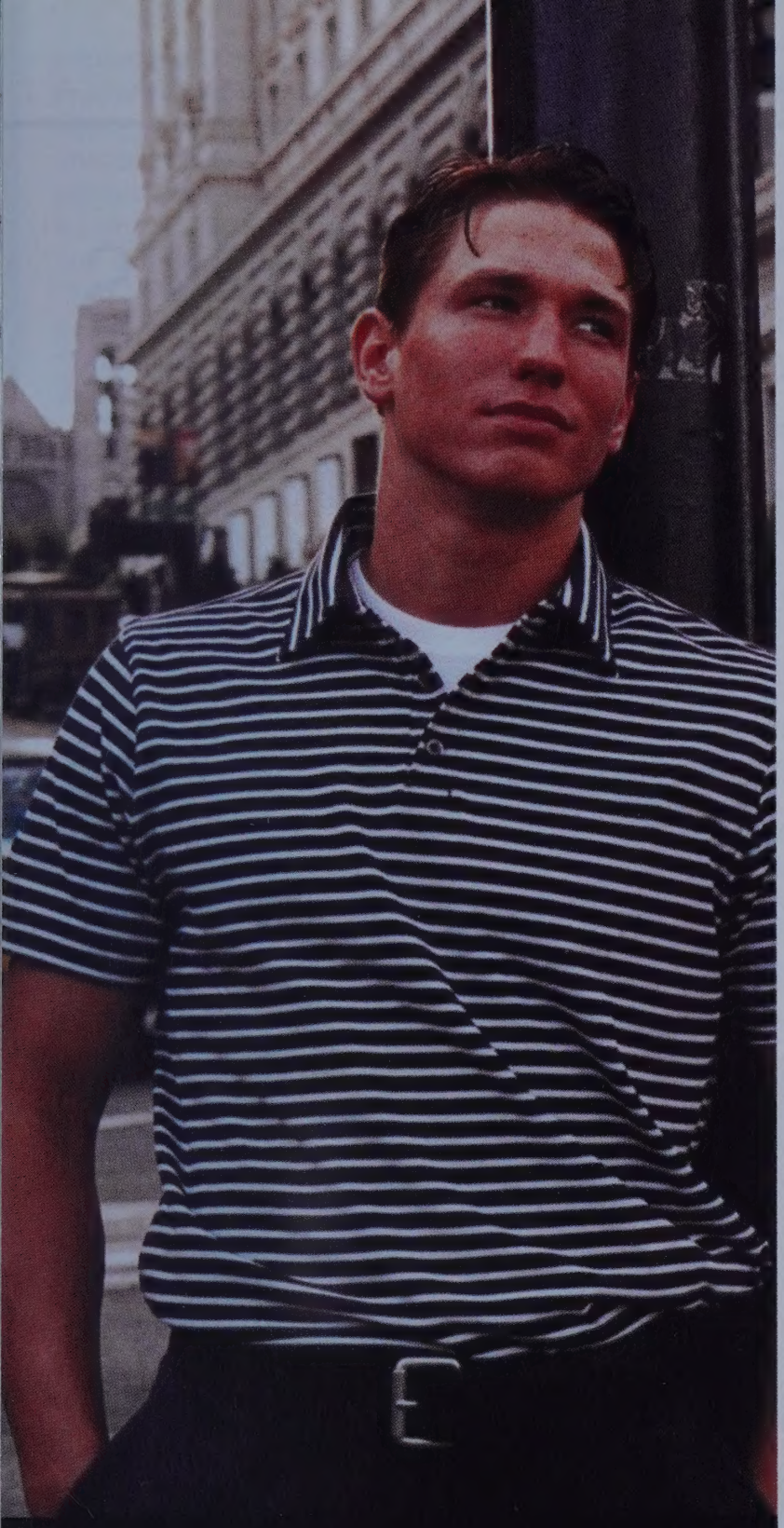

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PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORIES

Atlanta's **weaklazyliar** explores themes of life and love on latest CD

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT holding a photograph in your hands. It can be a tangible connection to experiences that are at once familiar and elusive. "Songs for Any Occasion," the new CD by the Atlanta indie alt-pop quartet weaklazyliar, follows that premise by living up to its title. Each of the reflective, mid-tempo tracks is a word-picture of diverse moments in life.

The group performs Feb. 10 at the CD's release party, held at 10 High Club in Virginia-Highland. The album hits stores Feb. 15

Gerlinda Grimes, lead singer/guitarist/lyricist of weaklazyliar, is a lesbian, but she says her intent isn't to play only to gay listeners, opting instead for telling universal tales anyone can relate to.

"I don't make any kind of conscious attempt to write, or not write, about gay themes in my music," she says. "Honestly, I'm not even sure what a 'gay theme' would be."

'**Songs for Any Occasion**,' the new CD by the gay-inclusive alt-pop band weaklazyliar, is released Feb. 15.

Further, Grimes believes weaklazyliar's brand of pensive folk-pop isn't necessarily the only fitting genre for expressing gay sentiments in music.

"I think you can express how it feels to be a gay person effectively through any creative medium, including the creative medium of day-to-day life itself," she says.

Grimes, who cites singer Suzanne Vega's "amazing lyrics and pure, quiet voice" as primary influences, indeed has a voice that is sometimes slightly reminiscent of both Vega and former Sixpence None The Richer vocalist Leigh Nash. It's that element — and Grimes' own intensely poetic lyrics — that helps to effectively convey the sometimes bittersweet but ultimately life-affirming moments in the band's songs.

"I'm driving through Birmingham / Everything has brought me right here, / To where I am / Of all the small things I've ever done / This is one / This is one," Grimes sings on "Broken Windows in Factories."

In the wistful "When Joe Lived on Mary Street," Grimes sings, "When Joe lived on Mary Street / Rain was a devil dancer in a dark coat / He wanted so many impossible things / He didn't know which one to choose / He let them all go."

Such songs aren't just like snapshots; they're also akin to old-fashioned ballads, with characters facing difficult choices in life and love.

The band formed in 1996 when Grimes met bassist Chris Mathewson and the two

connected over songwriting. Drummer Jeff Frazier joined them soon after. Over the next eight years, the band went through several lineup changes but continued to write, perform and record. They gradually accrued a critical following thanks to their debut EP and subsequent CDs, "Yesterday Night" and "The November Diaries." Their songs have been featured on the TV shows "Felicity," "The Education of Max Bickford," and the Saturday morning teen series "Just Deal."

Thus far, Grimes says her status as the band's front woman — and its only gay member — has been a positive experience.

"The guys are supportive to the point that none of us ever think about the fact that I'm gay. To them, I'm just Gerlinda," she says. "All of our fans, gay and straight and in-between, seem OK with it too."

The "guys" are Mathewson, Frazier, and keyboardist Ryan Taylor.

Despite weaklazyliar's ambivalence regarding gay themes in its music and Grimes' sexual orientation, the sweet song "Elevator" — laced with Taylor's evocative, almost William Orbit-inspired keyboard flourishes — comes perhaps the closest to indirectly conveying gay sentiments:

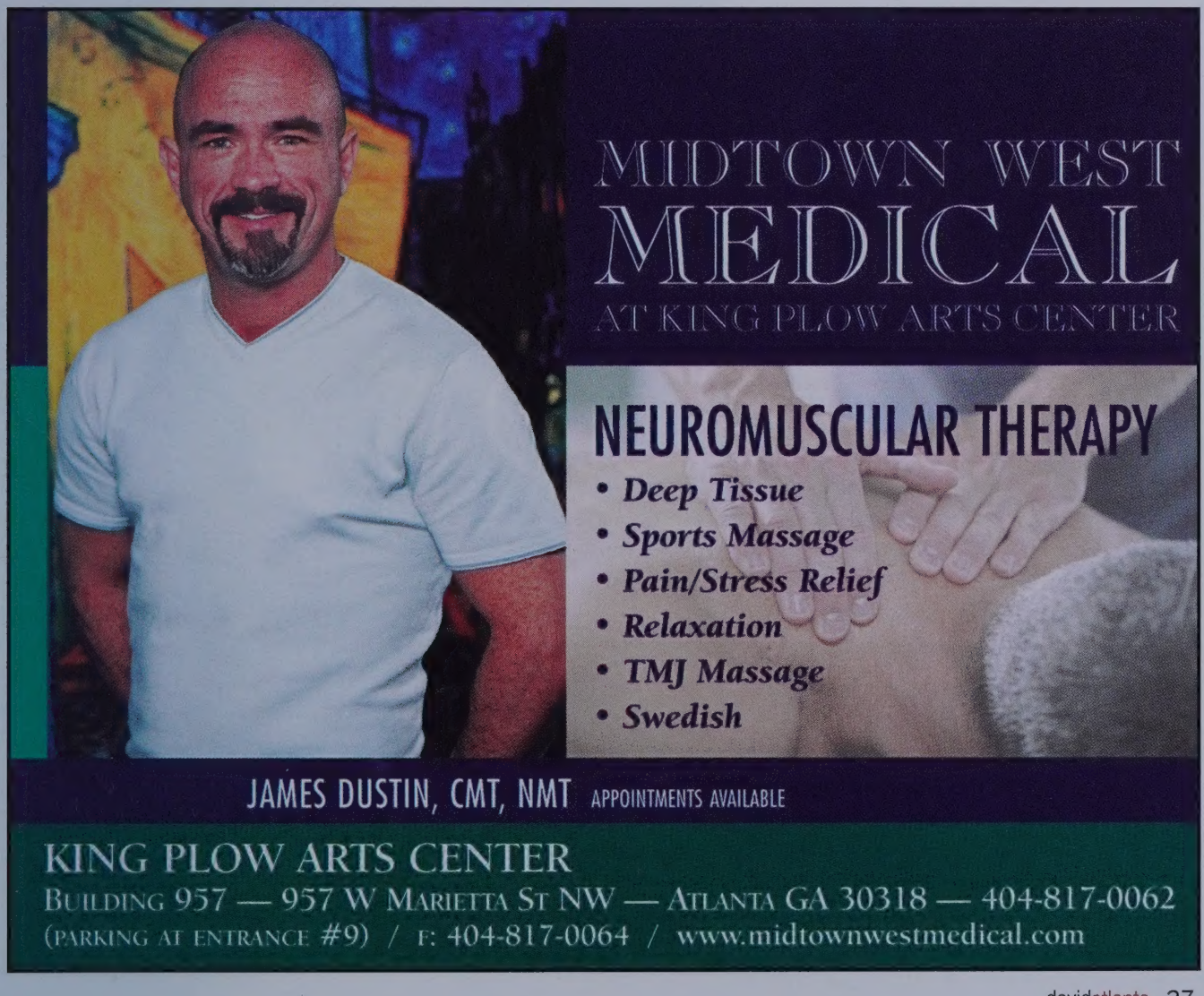
> 'I think you can express how it feels to be a gay person effectively through any creative medium, including the creative medium of day-to-day life itself.'

"Suddenly, I am aware of my knees / They're funny and lonely and small / Here is my family: laughing in the corridor / I don't know who I am at all."

"Maybe that's a 'gay theme,' but it's also a human theme," Grimes says.

With Grimes, Mathewson, Frazier, and Taylor playing together like a fine-tuned indie-pop machine with heart, there's little wonder that their reflective folk-pop continues to win them new fans. ■

The CD release party for "Songs for Any Occasion" takes place Feb. 10, 11 p.m. at 10 High Club (under Dark Horse Tavern), 816 North Highland Ave. $5, 404-873-3607, www.tenhighclub.com, www.weaklazyliar.com.



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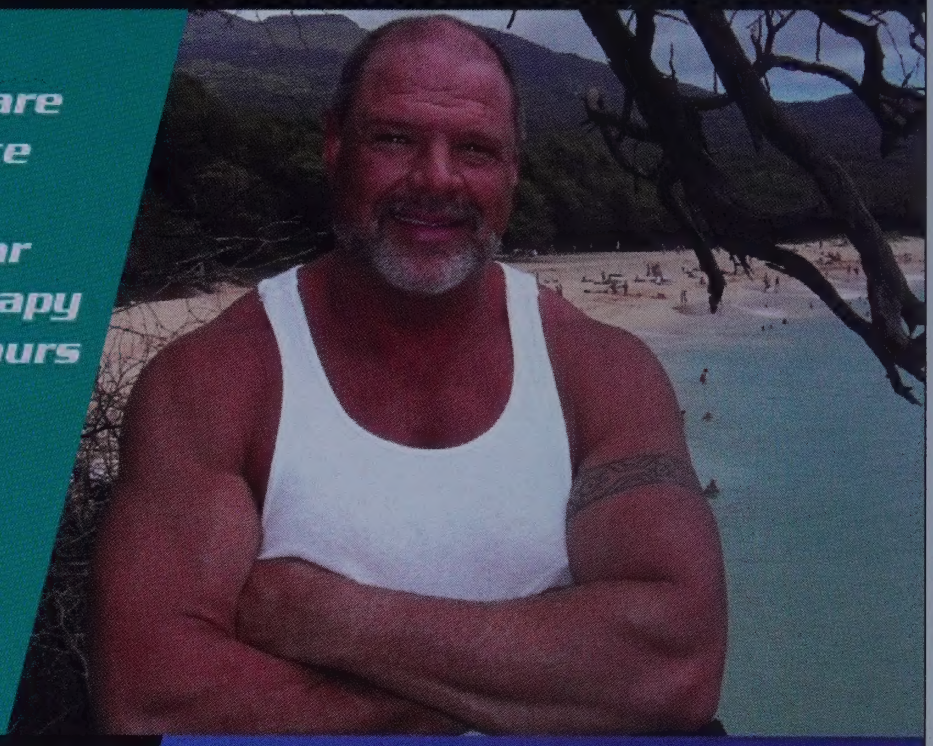

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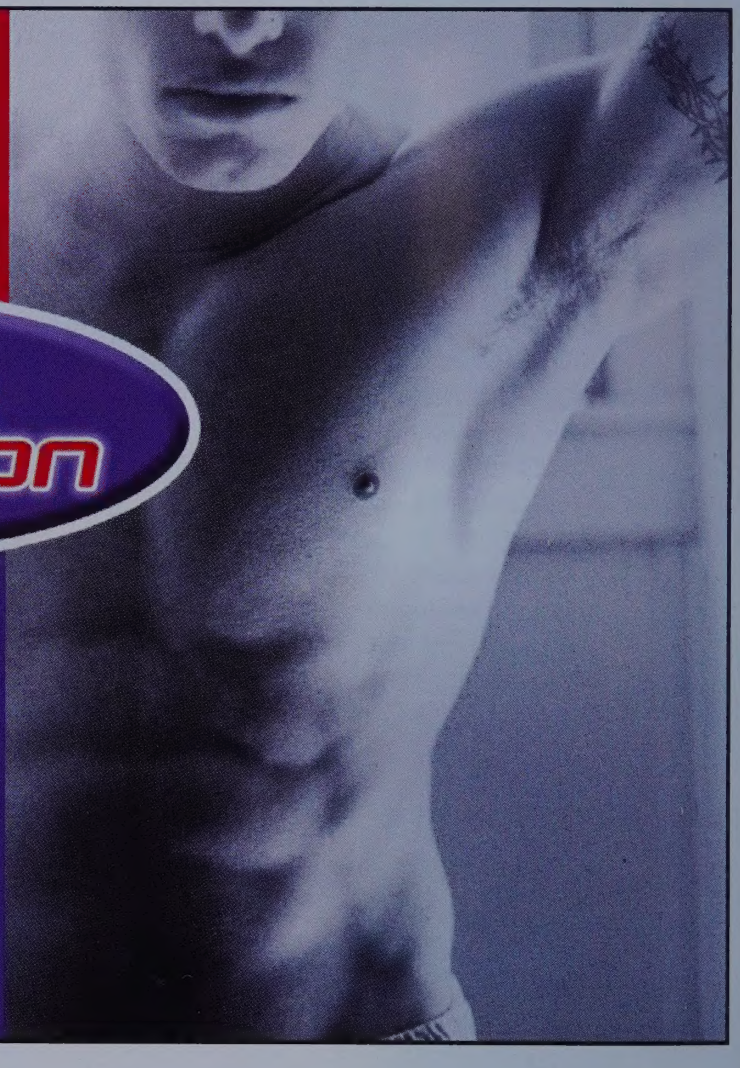

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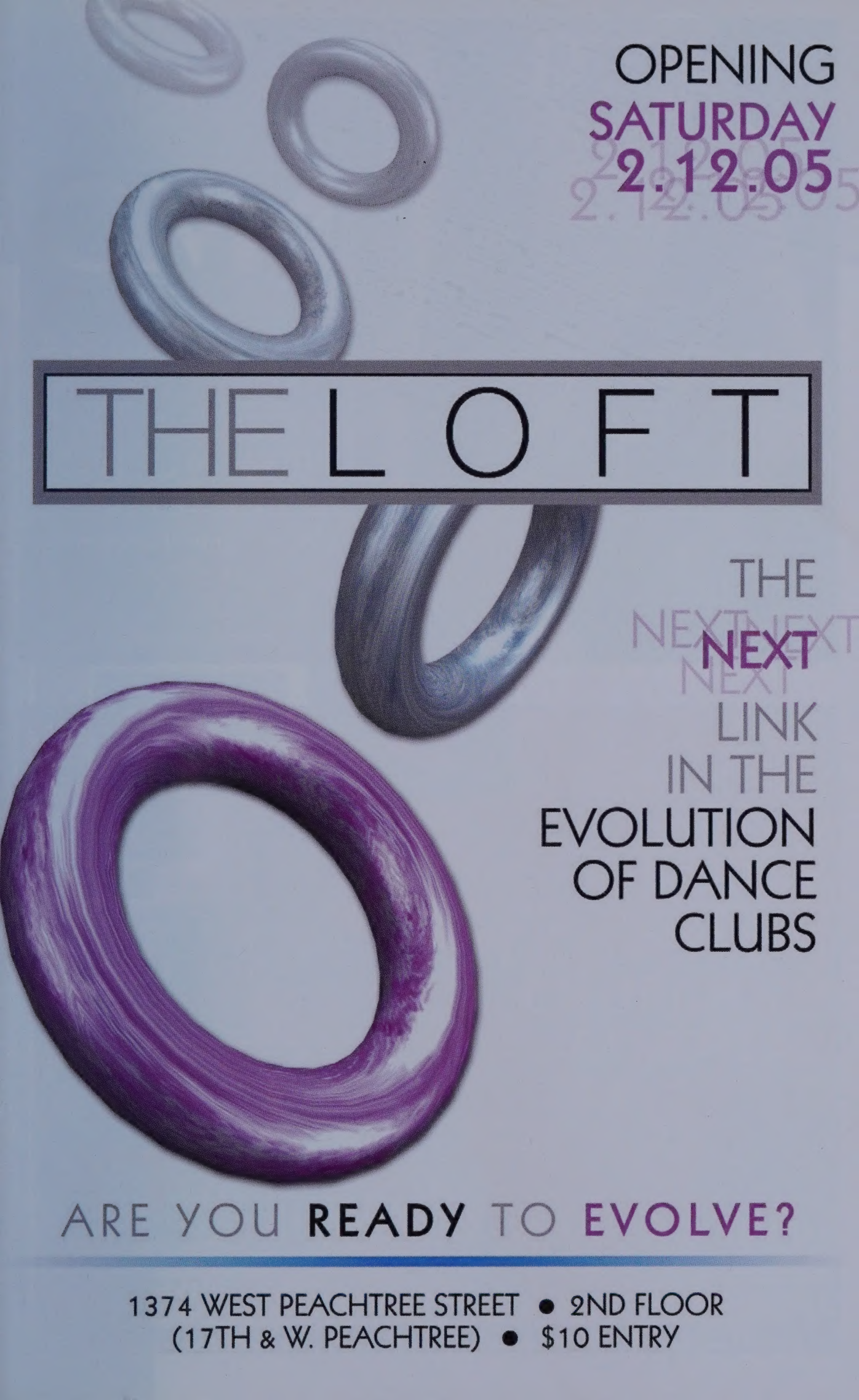
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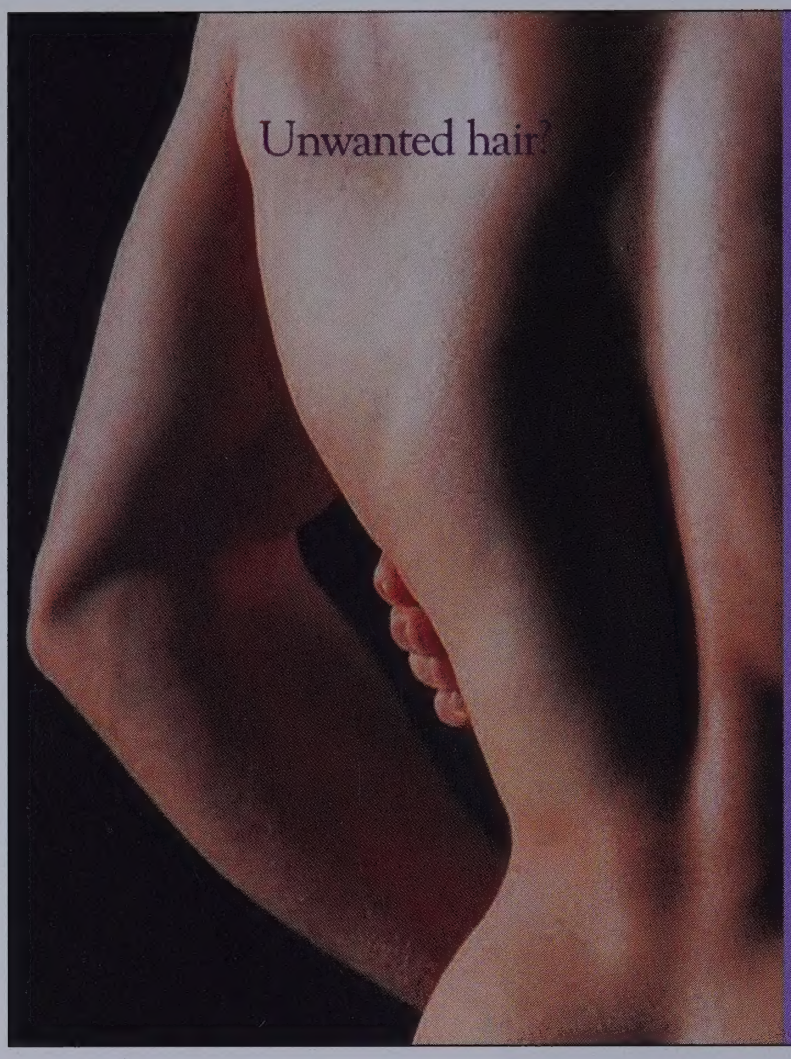

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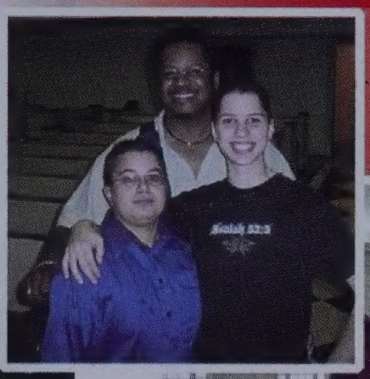

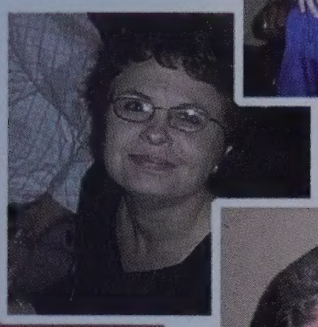

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and
believe in your heart, that
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you will be saved
Romans 10:9

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The warmly dysfunctional Tylers — mother Karen (**Diana Scarwid**, left), father Darrin (**William Sadler**), lesbian daughter Sharon (**Katie Finneran**, third from left) and protaganist Jaye (**Caroline Dhavernas**) — are at the center of "Wonderfalls," now out on DVD.

NO SMALL 'WONDER'

Fox's '**Wonderfalls**' didn't get much attention on the air, but the DVD should guarantee the quirky series eternal life.

FOR GAY TV FANS WAITING FOR THE LIKES OF forgettable duds like "Normal, Ohio" and "Some of My Best Friends" to come out on DVD, don't hold your breath. Actually, do hold your breath because if you really want to see those mediocre sitcoms again, it's questionable whether you deserve oxygen.

For those with more discriminating tastes, the long wait for Fox's "Wonderfalls" to return is over: It was released on DVD on Feb. 1. The critically acclaimed, but low-rated show aired on Fox for only four Fridays last March and April.

The show's devoted cult fan base didn't know what became of the program's nine unaired, one-hour episodes. Now they'll get a chance to find out.

And for all of you who ignored the show or didn't know about it the first time around, here's your chance to discover a quality, quirky drama unlike anything else on television.

Created and produced the gay duo Bryan Fuller (Showtime's "Dead Like Me") and Todd Holland (Fox's "Malcolm in the Middle"), "Wonderfalls" revolves around Jaye (Caroline Dhavernas), a recent Ivy League graduate squandering her post-college potential by living in a trailer park and working at a souvenir shop in Niagara Falls, her hometown.

One day, the toys, stuffed animals and figurines at the shop start talking to Jaye, essentially ordering her around with fortune cookie proclamations like: "Mend what is

broken." Though often reluctant, she eventually obeys and her meddling ends up improving the lives of others. It's like "Joan of Arcadia" for the blue states.

Jaye's adventures often involve her zany family, headed by caustically meddling mom, Karen (Diana Scarwid), and stern-but-lovable dad, Darrin (William Sadler). In the first episode, Jaye learns that her sister, the over-achieving lawyer, Sharon (Katie Finneran), is a closeted lesbian.

In the final episode, Jaye learns that her sassy best friend, Mahandra (Tracie Thoms), has been secretly dating her live-at-home brother, Aaron (Lee Pace).

And of course Jaye has a love interest, local bartender Eric (the adorable Tyron Leitso).

The nine episodes of "Wonderfalls" that didn't air only make it more evident that this really was a show worth making time for, even on a Friday night. Hip, stylish, cynical and totally unpredictable, the series has characters that are strange and neurotic, but eventually likeable.

The stories are offbeat without being ridiculous. Their messages are affirming, though not sentimental or didactic like on other feel-good shows such as "Touched by an Angel" or "Joan of Arcadia."

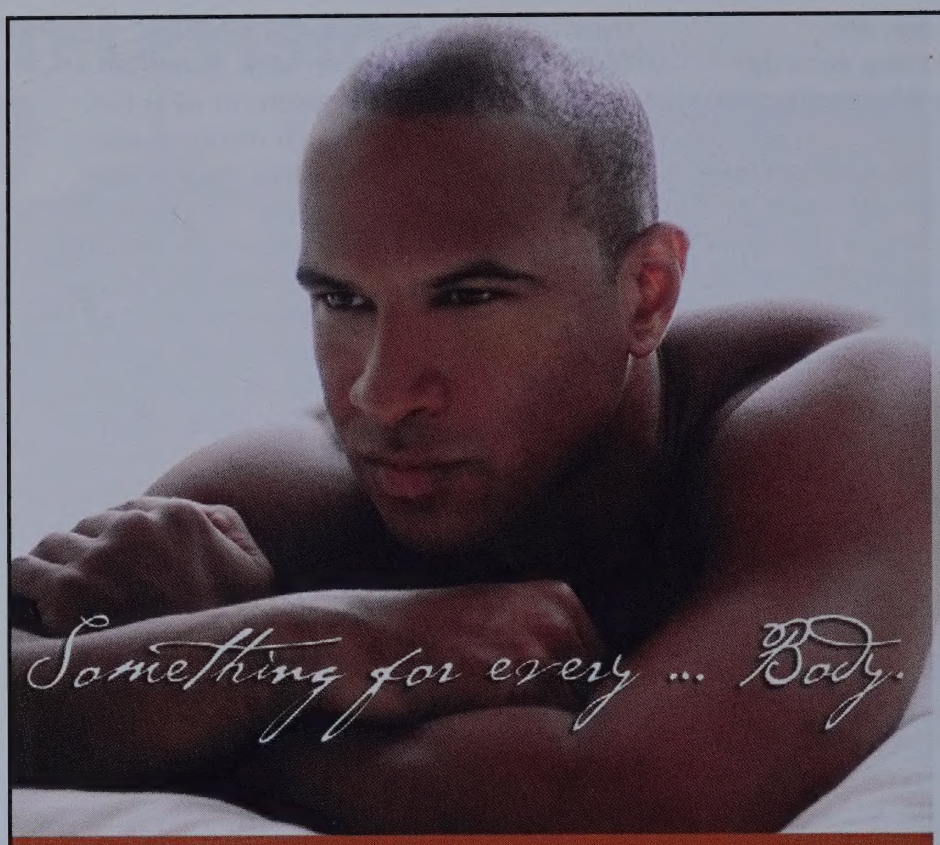
What this all boils down to is that what people try to hide is what controls their lives — whether it's Jaye's "voices," Mahandra's relationship with Aaron, or Sharon's sexual orientation. In all three cases, the characters find meaning and fulfillment by indulging what they would rather keep to themselves.

While she does have a girlfriend, the lesbian character Sharon never gets the chance to fully explore the significance of this on screen. She also never gets to come out to her entire family. But over the course of 13 episodes, viewers get to watch as she more fully embraces her sexual orientation.

"I would rather people think that I was really a lesbian than think that I was really a lawyer," actor Finneran jokes about her character on the "Greetings from Wonderfalls" documentary included on the DVD.

Also special for the new release are commentary tracks for several episodes by Finneran, Dhavernas, Fuller and Holland. Though these are great for diehard fans and those who will watch "Wonderfalls" repeatedly, it might be too overbearing for first-time viewers because it's difficult to hear the dialogue between the characters. ■

'Wonderfalls: The Complete First Season, Fox Home Entertainment, $39.98



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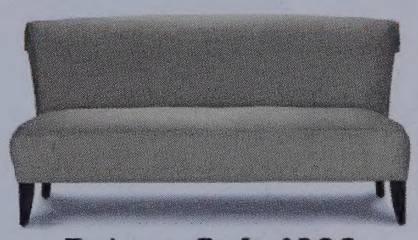

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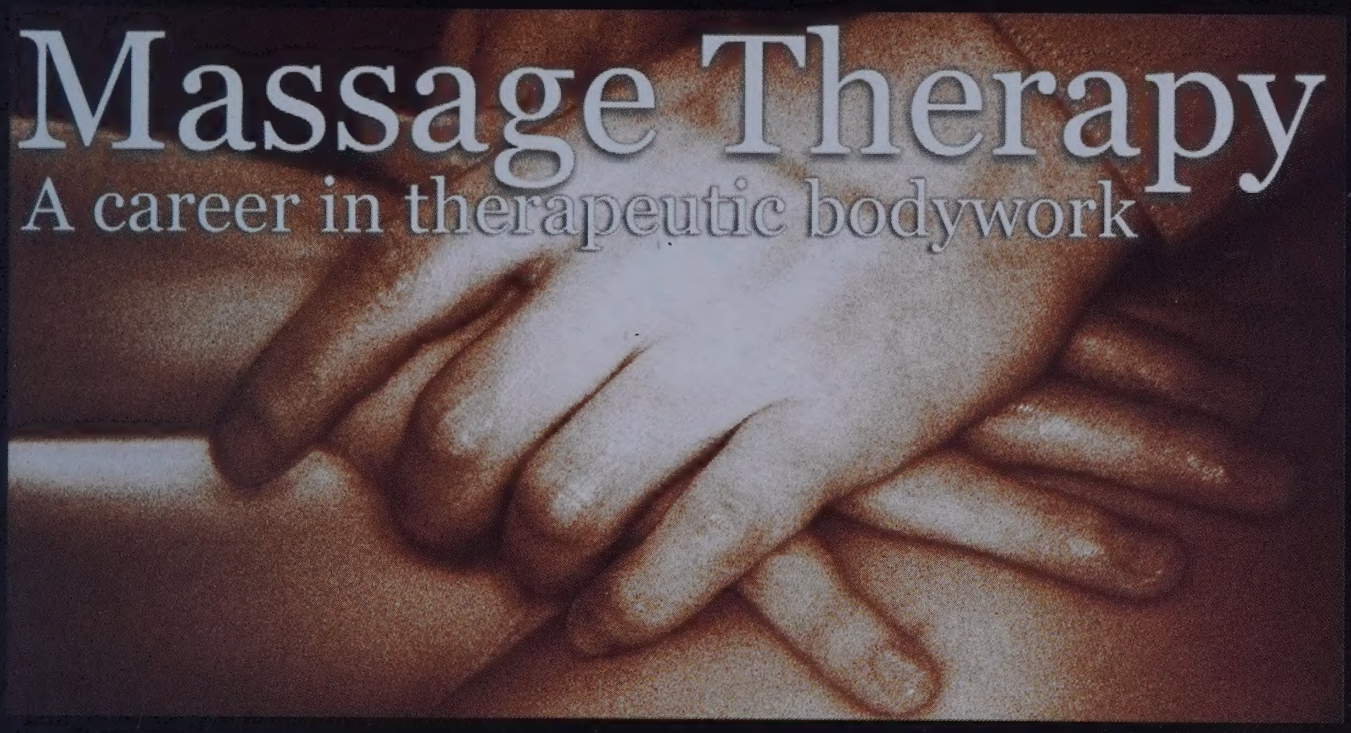

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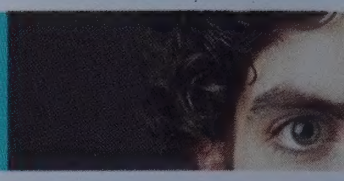

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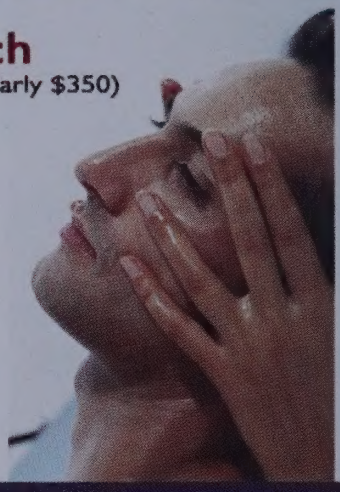

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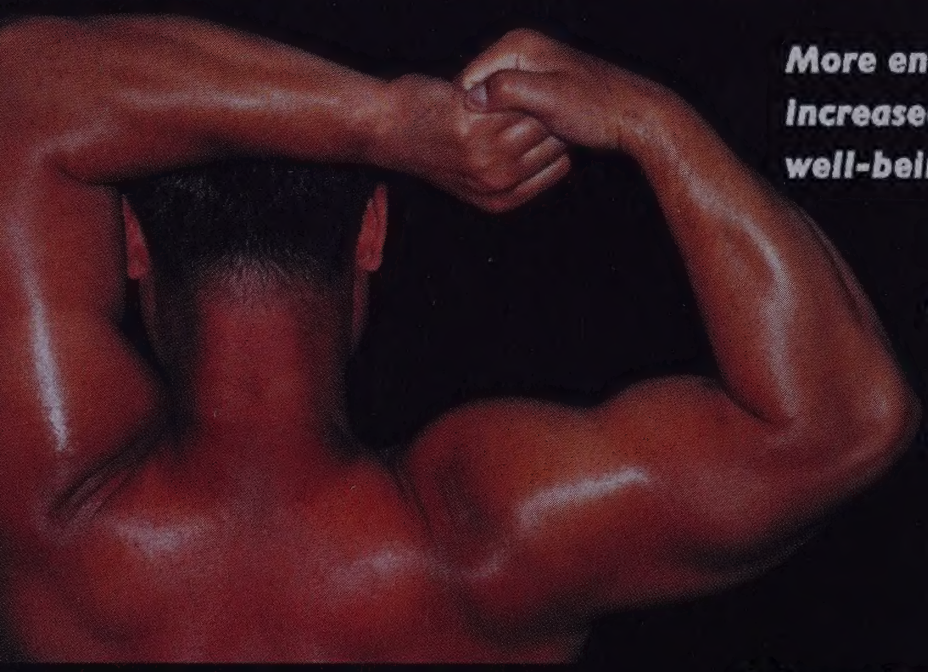

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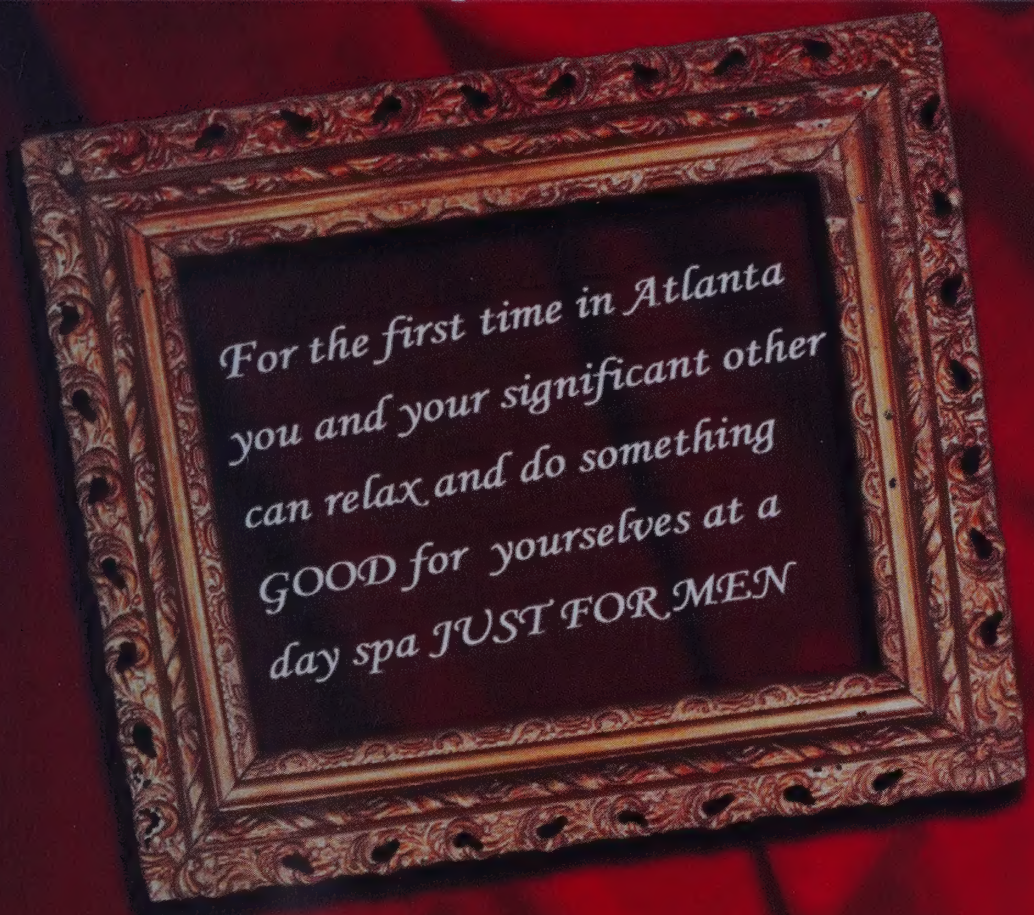
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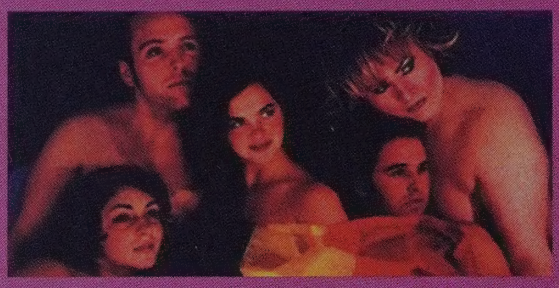
COMPILED BY VAN GOWER



GET YOUR VD

So you're in a committed gay couple and couldn't be happier? Great. Or you're desperate and dateless, and couldn't be more pissed about it? No problem. Out Of Hand Theater is here for all of you with the gay **"VD Show — The Trilogy: Return of the Queen."** Regardless of whether your holiday is heart-filled or heartless, come check out the cabaret style same-sex Kama Sutra dances, drag entertainment, musical performances and more. Then stick around later for the after-party and dancing.

Feb. 11, 12 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. Jungle, 2115 Faulkner Road. $15 advance, $20 door. Reservations: 404-522-6194, www.outofhandtheater.com

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Scott Spar, known locally for his party promotions company Midtown Productions, opens Atlanta's newest gay dance venue The Loft on Feb. 12. Billed as "the next link in the evolution of dance clubs," the 15,000 square-foot Loft will boast a large stage for shows and performers, flat-panel video screens, a vast dance floor, custom concert-style lighting and sound system, and oversized sofas just right for lounging with friends old and new. Plus, for the gays who like the bling, an elevator can whisk you up to the Loft's exclusive VIP room.

The new venue is located on the second floor of the building that also houses Earthlink Live. Feb. 12, doors open 9 p.m. 1374 West Peachtree St. $10. 404-249-1466.

STILL CRAZY

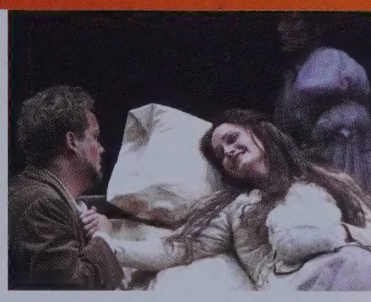
Speaking of gay-owned party companies, Fruitcake Productions presents its newest "2-T Fruity" tea dance, dubbed "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," just in time for Valentine's Day. Hot Brazilian DJ Renato Cecin guests, stepping up to the turntables to spin his own special mix of high-energy dance music. 6 p.m.-midnight at eleven50, 1150-B Peachtree St. $15 with valid student I.D., $20 at the door. 404-874-0428, www.eleven50, www.fruitcakeproductions.com

HERMAN'S HEROINES

The famed songs and unforgettable diva characters made famous by gay Broadway composer Jerry Herman in such musicals as "La Cage aux Folles," "Mame," and "Hello, Dolly!" are celebrated in the exuberant show "Jerry's Girls." Local gay entertainer and Broadway veteran Robert Ray choreographs and directs this production that also showcases 100 years of theatrical leading ladies' costumes. Feb. 11 and Feb. 12 at 8 p.m., Feb. 13 at 2 p.m. at Robert Ferst Center for the Arts, 349 Ferst Drive. $35, $45. 404-894-9600, www.atlantalyrictheatre.com

Have an item to submit for Datebook? E-mail editor@davidatlanta.com. Please send listings at least two weeks prior to publication.

HOT DATES



02.10 **"LA BOHEME":** The Atlanta Opera presents Giacomo Puccini's riveting operatic tale of young love brewing amid the Bohemian poverty hidden beneath glittering Paris. Thurs. 8 p.m., Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sun. 3 p.m. Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center, 395 Piedmont Ave. $17-$105. 404-881-8885, 800-356-7372, www.atlantaopera.org

02.12 **DJ CRAIG SPY:** The special guest DJ spins for all the boys and girls at Jungle. Doors open at 10 p.m. Jungle, 2115 Faulkner Road. $5 before 11 p.m., $10 members, $20 non-members. 404-844-8800, www.jungleclub.net

02.13 **ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER:** The celebrated dance troupe founded by the late gay dancer-choreographer-director Alvin Ailey concludes its Atlanta engagement with a 3 p.m. performance of Ailey's "Love Stories," "Shining Star," and "Revelations." Fox Theatre, 660 Peachtree St. $20-$45. 404-881-2100, www.foxtheatre.org, www.alvinailey.org

02.14 **"SILENCE OF THE LAMBS: THE MUSICAL":** Dad's Garage Theatre's "My Bloody Valentine" night presents a madcap musical version of the adventures of Hannibal and Clarice. Admission includes complimentary glass of Crush Pad Red Wine and red velvet cupcake. 8 p.m. 280 Elizabeth St. $35. 404-523-3141, www.dadsgarage.com

NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Please submit calendar entries no later than 5 p.m. on Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Send your listings to editor@davidatlanta.com

WED 02.09

ARMORY. Flux. Doors open at 9 p.m.
BLAKE'S. "Brain Freeze" trivia w/Ruby Redd, 11 p.m.
BUDDIES. "Ladies Night."
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke, midnight.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret starring Charlie Brown and cast, 11 p.m.-3:30 a.m.
COLOURS. Male revue with original Men of Jaguar.
FUTURE. "F.U.C. – Future Underground Club" in Underground Atlanta. DJs, entertainers and shows. Doors open 10 p.m. 678-904-2457.
HERETIC. "Boys Night Out Dress Code Party" with DJ Rick Walsh, 9 p.m.
HOEDOWN'S. Intermediate Two-step dance lessons.
LATIN SOL. Weekly "Flirt" lesbian night with all-girl bartenders, dancers and DJ. 9 p.m. in Underground Atlanta. 678-904-4357.
LeBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz" drag show, 11 p.m.
METRO. Wicked Wednesdays presents "Danny Donohoe's Birthday Blowout," 7 p.m. Free buffet. DJ Martin, 10 p.m. New cast show, midnight.
MIDTOWN SALOON & GRILL. Open mic night.
MISS Q'S. Pool leagues.
MODEL T. Movie night, midnight.
RED CHAIR. "Dinner and a Movie," 7:30 p.m. Kingpins Drag Show, 10 p.m.
STAGE DOOR. Trivia, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. No cover before 10 p.m.
TRIPPS. Karaoke, 11 p.m.
WETBAR. "Martini Madness"

THU 02.10

ARMORY. "Naked Boys Singing," 8 p.m.
BLAKE'S. "Divas Live!" with Ashley Kruiz, Heather Daniels, Angelica Diamante and guests, 11 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Kitty LeClaw's "Meow Mix Show," 11 p.m. Free pool 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5-9:30 p.m. Miss Lauren's "Just For Fun" blackjack, 6 p.m.-2 a.m. DJ John Schultz, 8 p.m.-midnight.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret starring Charlie Brown and cast, 11 p.m.-3:30 a.m.
COLOURS. "Bad Boy Thursday," 8 p.m.
EAGLE. "Blackout Thursday," 10 p.m.
FELIX'S. Jackpot karaoke , 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.
HERETIC. "Experience Rapture" DJ Rick Walsh, 9 p.m.
HALO. Guest DJ Miles Maeda and the "New House Sound of Chicago" tour joining resident DJ Brandon Sutton for "Boys Night Out," 10 p.m.
HOEDOWNS. Line dance lessons, "Ladies Night"
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Trivia, 8-10 p.m.
LEBUZZ. Amateur talent contest hosted by Nicole Paige Brooks, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Beat Surrender" with Stewart, 9 p.m.
METRO. "RegGAYtón" salsa and bachita dance music with DJ Carlos Martinez, 10 p.m.
MODEL T. Talent search, 10 p.m.
THE NEW ORDER. Open mic night.
OSCARS. "Best of the Oscars" videos VJ Das Wright.
RED CHAIR. College night: 18 to party, 21 to drink. 10-week "Red Chair Idol presents The Karaoke Contest" beginning Feb. 3. Starts at 10 p.m.

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STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
TRIPPS. Country night w/Ron and Mike, 9 p.m.
WETBAR. "College Night" with "WETboys," 21 & up with proper ID. Enter to win $500 Spring Break cash.
VALS. June Dunaphant at piano w/open mic, 7:30 p.m.

FRI 02.11

ARMORY. "Naked Boys Singing" cabaret room, 8 p.m.
BLAKE'S. "Bingo with Bubba & Jeffrey," 7 p.m. DJ Greg Dean spins at 9 p.m.
BUDDIES. "Twisted Sisters" hosted by Alexandria Martin and Regina Ryan with special guests.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7 p.m.
CHAPARRAL. Latin night. Pouring until 4 a.m.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret starring Charlie Brown and cast, 11 p.m.-3:30 a.m.
COLOURS. Hip Hop and R&B night.
HERETIC. "Sweat," 9 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Dance music with DJ Eric.
MARY'S. "Beat Surrender" with Stewart, 9 p.m.
METRO. "Club 1821" 18 to party; 21 to drink, with music by DJ Randy McDaniels, 10 p.m. "Cutie Pie Contest," midnight.
MODEL T. Divas of Illusion, 11 p.m.
OSCARS. "Martinis, Men & Videos" VJ Das Wright.
RED CHAIR. Tapas menu. Music videos. No cover.
STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. "2-4-1 T-Shirt Review."
VALS. Karaoke, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
WETBAR. Check out the view from the upstairs bar.

SAT 02.12

ARMORY. "Naked Boys Singing" cabaret room, 8 p.m.
BLAKES. "Let's Make a Diva Deal" 11 p.m.
BUDDIES. "Heat" starring Nicole Paige Brooks, Gigi Monroe, Sonique and guests, 11 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Dinner, 5:30-9 p.m. Miss Lauren's blackjack, 6 p.m.-2 a.m. DJ Jason Jones, 8 p.m. "Saturday Showcase Ultimate Talent Search" with Mary Edith Pitts and Kitty LeClaw, 11 p.m.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret starring Charlie Brown and cast, 11 p.m.-3:30 a.m.
COLOURS. Male revue with Men of Jaguar.
HERETIC. "ROMP!" 9 p.m.
LEBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz" drag show hosted by Tequila Mockingbird, 11 p.m.
THE LOFT. Opening night of Atlanta's newest dance club. Doors open 9 p.m. 1374 West Peachtree St., 2nd Floor. $10. 404-249-1466.
MARY'S. Karaoke, 11 p.m.-3 a.m.
METRO. "Caliente!" Latin dance music with DJ Martin, 10 p.m. "Las Bugambilias Revue," midnight.
MODEL T. "Model Teez Girlz" drag show, 11 p.m.
OSCARS. "Martinis, Men & Videos" VJ Das Wright.
RED CHAIR. Tapas menu. Music videos all evening. No cover.
STAGE DOOR. DJ, dancing, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-3 a.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. 2-4-1 T-Shirt review.
TRAXX. Club closing party with DJ Power Infiniti. DJ Mark Kaon opens. 10 p.m.
TRIPPS. 1st and 3rd Saturdays: Linda Michaels' "Showcase Showdown," 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.
VALS. Karaoke, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
WETbar. DJ Greg Dean, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

SUN 02.13

BLAKE'S. "Big Time!" drag revue with Shabazz, Jealousé, Myah Monroe, and guests.
BUDDIES. Free cookout 6 p.m. The Gospel Echoes with Morticia DeVille, Jimmy and Mark, 8 p.m.
BURKHART'S: Armorettes, 9 p.m.
CHAPARRAL. Hip hop night featuring Maxine Blue. Pouring until 3 a.m.
EAGLE. "Retro Sundays" '70s and '80s music.
ELEVEN50. Fruitcake Productions' "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" 2-T Fruity tea dance with DJ Renato Cecin, 6 p.m.-midnight.
HERETIC. DJ Rick Walsh, 8 p.m.-midnight.
HOEDOWNS. Line dance lessons, 5-6 p.m.
MARY'S. "Desperate Housewives" w/William, 9 p.m.
MIDTOWN SALOON & GRILL. First Sundays: "Midtown Saloon Girls" drag show, 7 p.m.
MODEL T. "Café Zone 3" jazz show, 10 p.m.
RED CHAIR. "Red Chair Revue" w/ Bubba D. Licious, 8 p.m.
STAGE DOOR. Piano bar. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.

MON 02.14

BLAKE'S. Princess and the Drag Race, 11 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool 4-7 p.m. Dinner 5-9:30 p.m. Miss Lauren's blackjack, 6 p.m.-2 a.m. Karaoke, 12.
COLOURS. Male revue talent night, 11:30 p.m.
EAGLE. Free pool, rock music, Mondays. Open 8 p.m.
FELIX'S. Free pool all day.
HERETIC. Free pool, darts, 7-10 p.m. Dance floor opens 9 p.m.
LEBUZZ. "Lady LeBuzz" drag kings and drag queens show hosted by Heather Daniels, 10 p.m.
METRO. Metro's "Sweetheart 14th Anniversary Party," 7 p.m. DJ Randy McDaniels, 10 p.m. "Shawnna Brooks' Mad Monday Revue," 10 p.m. and midnight.
MIDTOWN SALOON & GRILL. Free pool.
NICKIEMOTO'S. "Dragamaki"
THE OSCARS. Service industry night, 9 p.m.

TUE 02.15

BLAKE'S. Top 10 Hottest Video Countdown, 10 p.m. "Drag Gone Wild" with Mary Edith Pitts, Shawnna Brooks, "Hot Buns Contest," 11 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool 4-7 p.m. Dinner 5-9:30 p.m. DJ John Schultz, 8 p.m.-midnight. Karaoke, midnight.
BUDDIES. Karaoke with Patrick.
COLOURS. Customer appreciation night.
EAGLE. Free pool, rock music. Open 8 p.m.
GILBERT'S MEDITERRANEAN CAFÉ. "Navel" male belly dancing, Best Abs and Cutest Belly Button contests, hosted by Martina Diamante. 9:30 p.m.
HERETIC. Free pool & darts. Dance floor, 9 p.m.
HOEDOWNS. Two-step dance lessons, 8 p.m.
LeBUZZ. "Karaoke Wheel of Misfortune" with Alexandra Martin, 10:30 p.m.
MARY'S. Karaoke with C.J., 10 p.m.-2 a.m.
METRO. DJ Martin, 10 p.m. "GYPSY! Miss Atlanta Latina Pageant 2005," 11:30 p.m.
MISS Q's. Pool league
MODEL T. Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
OSCARS. "Showtune Tuesday."
RED CHAIR. "Dinner and a Movie," 7:30 p.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. No cover before 10 p.m.
VAL'S. Ladies Night.

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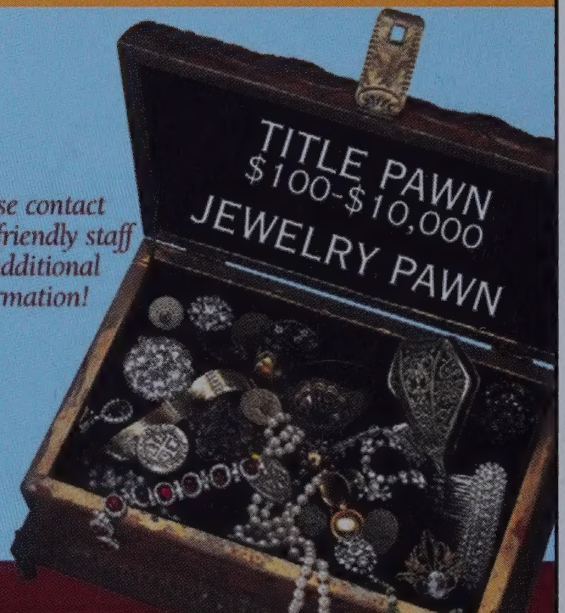

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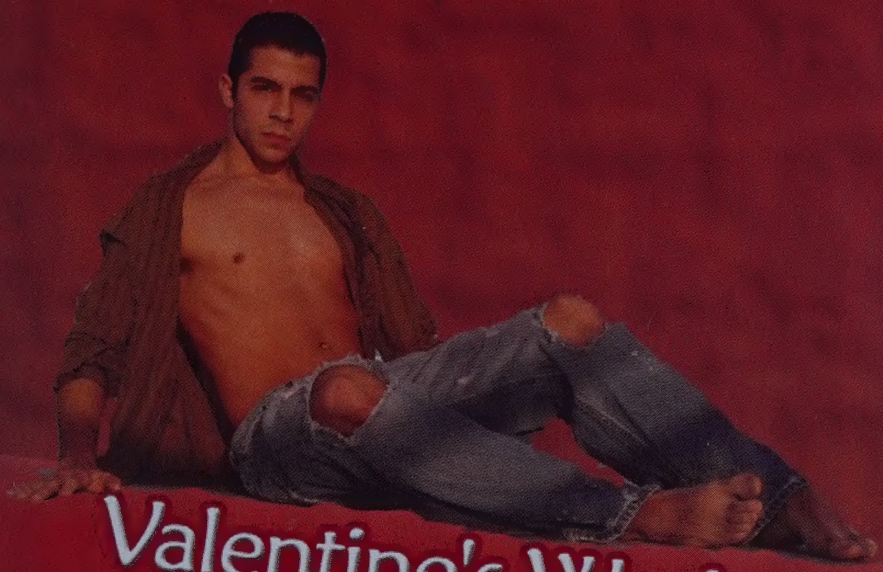

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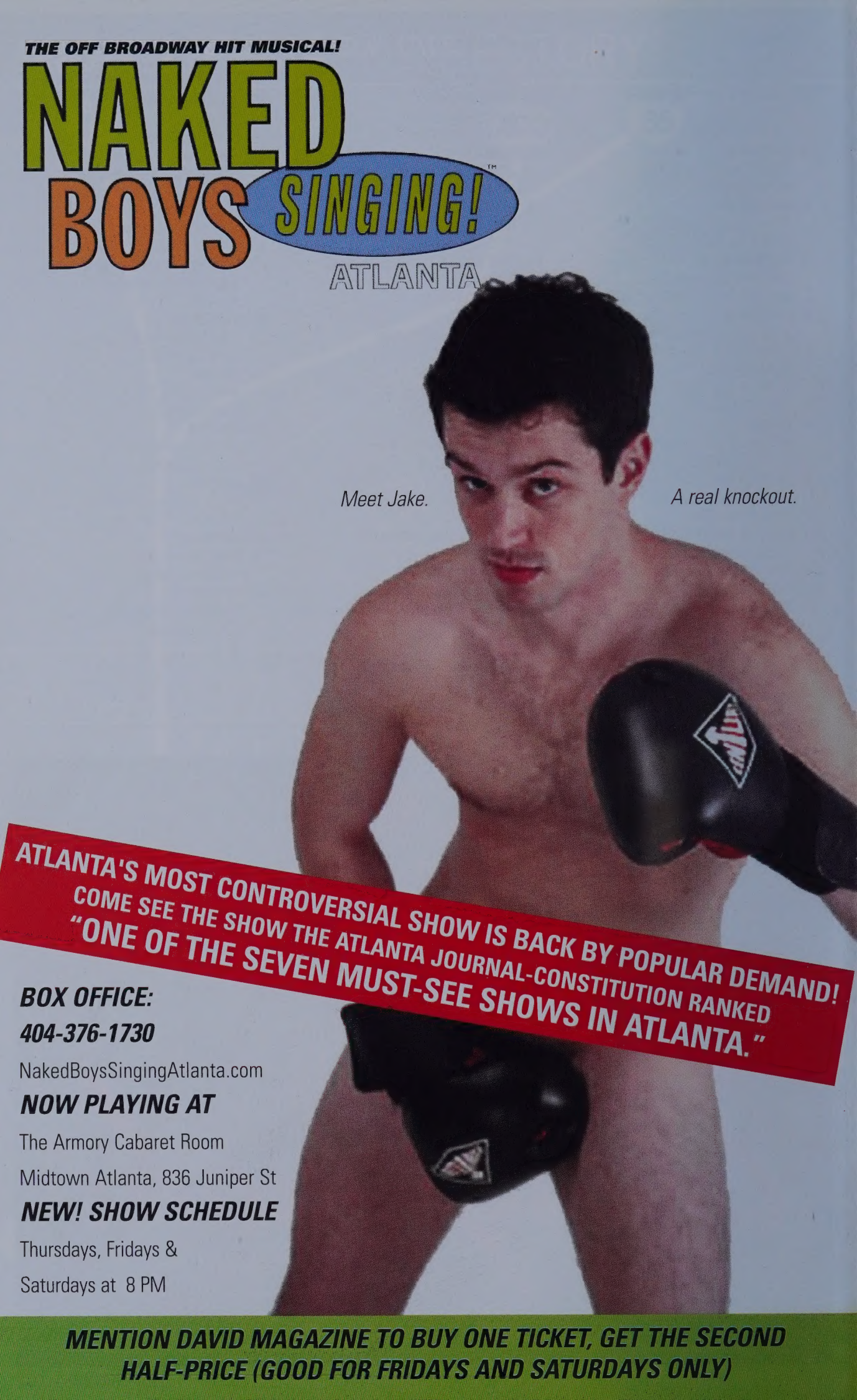
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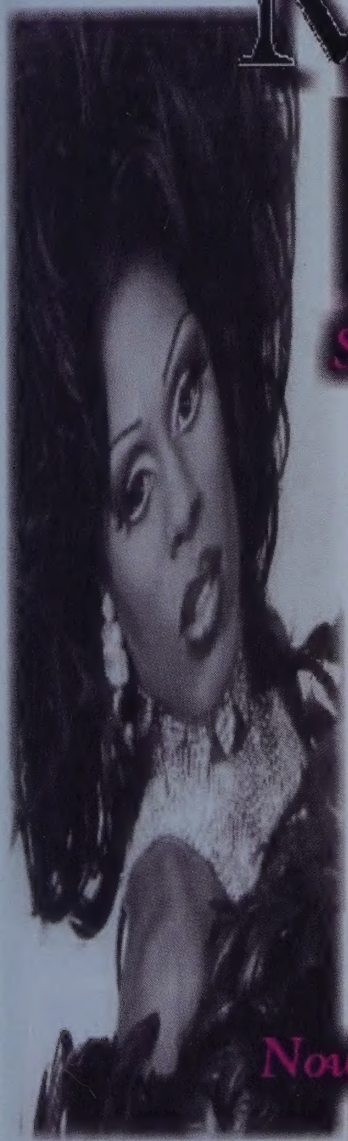
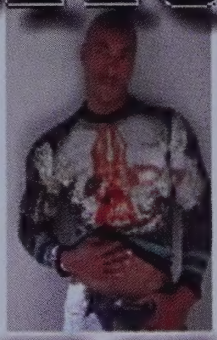
Mondays



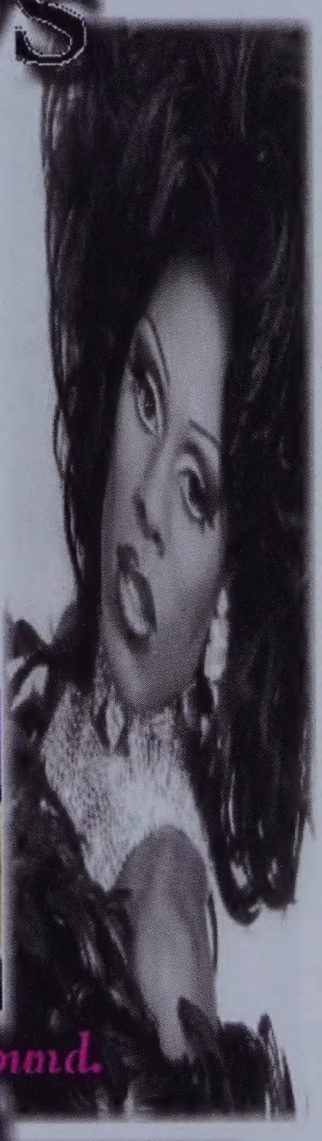
Coming

SOON!!



Feb. 14th

Guest Azia



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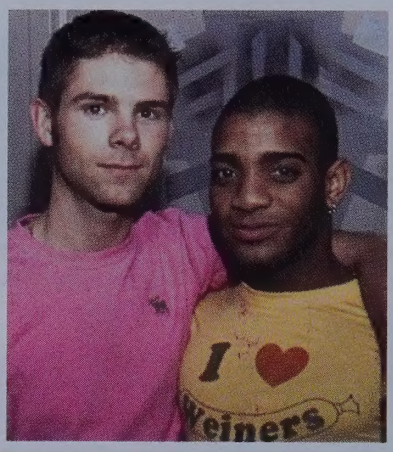

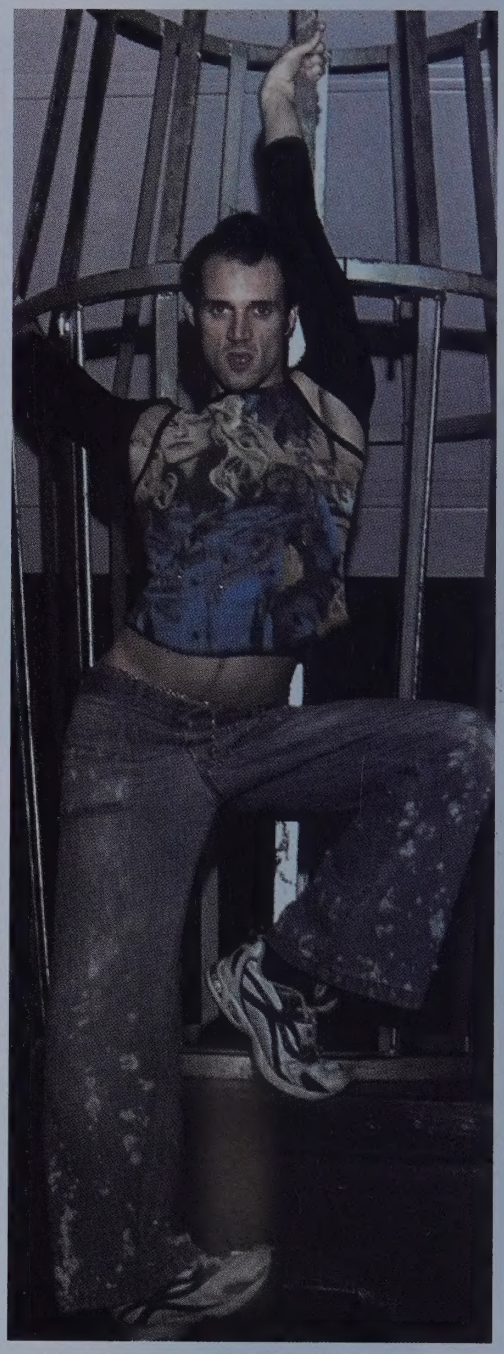

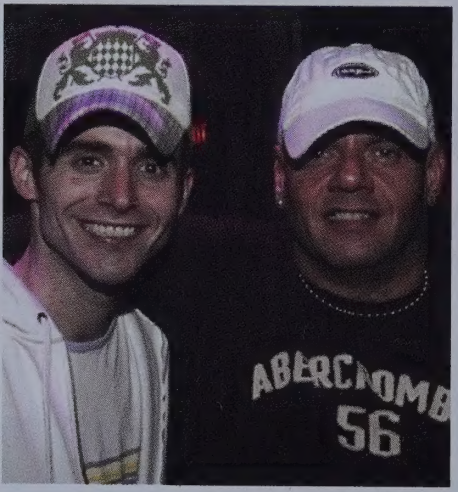

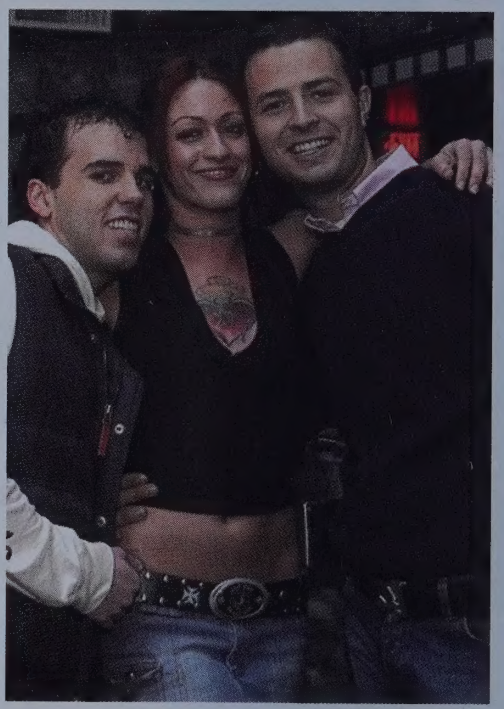

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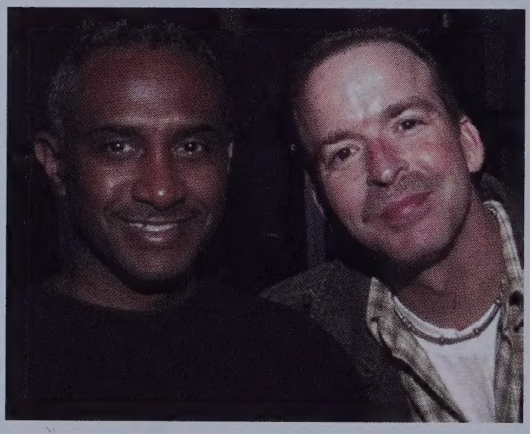

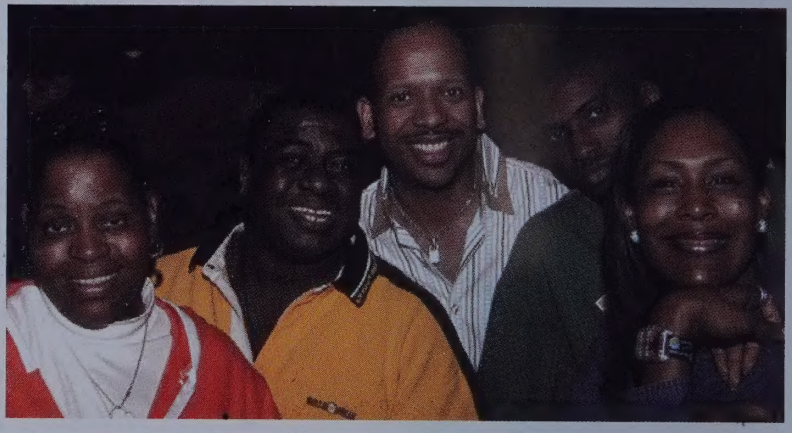

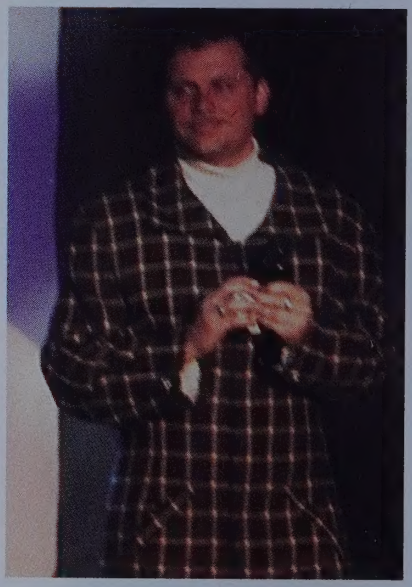

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HE DID WHAT? BY CHRISTOPHER STEVENS

HEART ATTACK

Advice for the loving — and loveless — on a forgettable holiday

VALENTINE'S DAY — NOW THERE'S A REALLY fraught topic.

Most people either love it or hate it, depending on the value of their stock in the romance market when the day rolls around. Even if you're in a hating way in a given year, you can't avoid it, because the chocolates and cards appeared in stores on New Years Day.

The Involved need no advice on how to celebrate (although keeping a lid on the gloating is one suggestion).

For the Uninvolved, there are three options. One is to ignore the whole thing, which has become almost as impossible as ignoring Christmas. Maybe you could get hypnotized. Dr. Mesmer would snap his fingers, and you would awake rested, relaxed and entirely oblivious to all the flowers and confections and doilies. Let me know if this works; I have entire decades I'm trying to forget.

Incidentally, Valentine's Day evolved (or was co-opted) from the festival of Lupercalia, an ancient Roman fertility rite celebrated on Feb. 15. The 14th is the commemoration of two saints, Valentine of Rome and Valentine of Interamna. Neither of them is remembered for anything having to do with romance. In fact, practically nothing is known about either of them, so if you're feeling anonymous and unappreciated, Valentine's Day may be the holiday for you after all.

Valentine's Day is like Christmas not only in its unavoidability, but in the oft-ignored fact that we've singled out one day of 365 to treat people as we ought to be treating them all the time, and herein lies Option 2 for those who feel left out: Love everyone (or at least several).

You don't have to go making out with everyone in sight. Stick anonymous red carnations under your neighbors' windshield wipers. Buy drinks for people on whom you have no carnal designs. Bake a heart-shaped cake for your co-workers. Red Velvet Cake would be appropriate, I suppose, and I seem to be the only one who finds it absolutely vile.

As Dolly Levi said of money, love is like manure — it doesn't do any good unless you spread it around.

If this is somehow beyond you, how about romancing yourself this VD? The holiday usually consists of three things: the gift, the date and the sex. You're on your own with the sex, but think about it: Who can do the date and the gift better than you? You know what you like. Better yet, if you're recovering from an entanglement, you know what he didn't like, which should make it all the more enjoyable. Pull out that favorite movie he thought was stupid. Cook (or buy) the dinner that he either didn't like, or that you refused to eat lest it make you fat and he'd dump you. Now he has anyway, you might as well make the most of the situation.

The Bible tells us to treat others as we would have them treat us. I say, why wait for them? Treat yourself the way you want others to treat you. Cut out the middle man. You'll love yourself for it. ■

Christopher Stevens looks forward to the 15th not for Lupercalia, but for the heart-shaped Whitman's samplers at 50 percent off.

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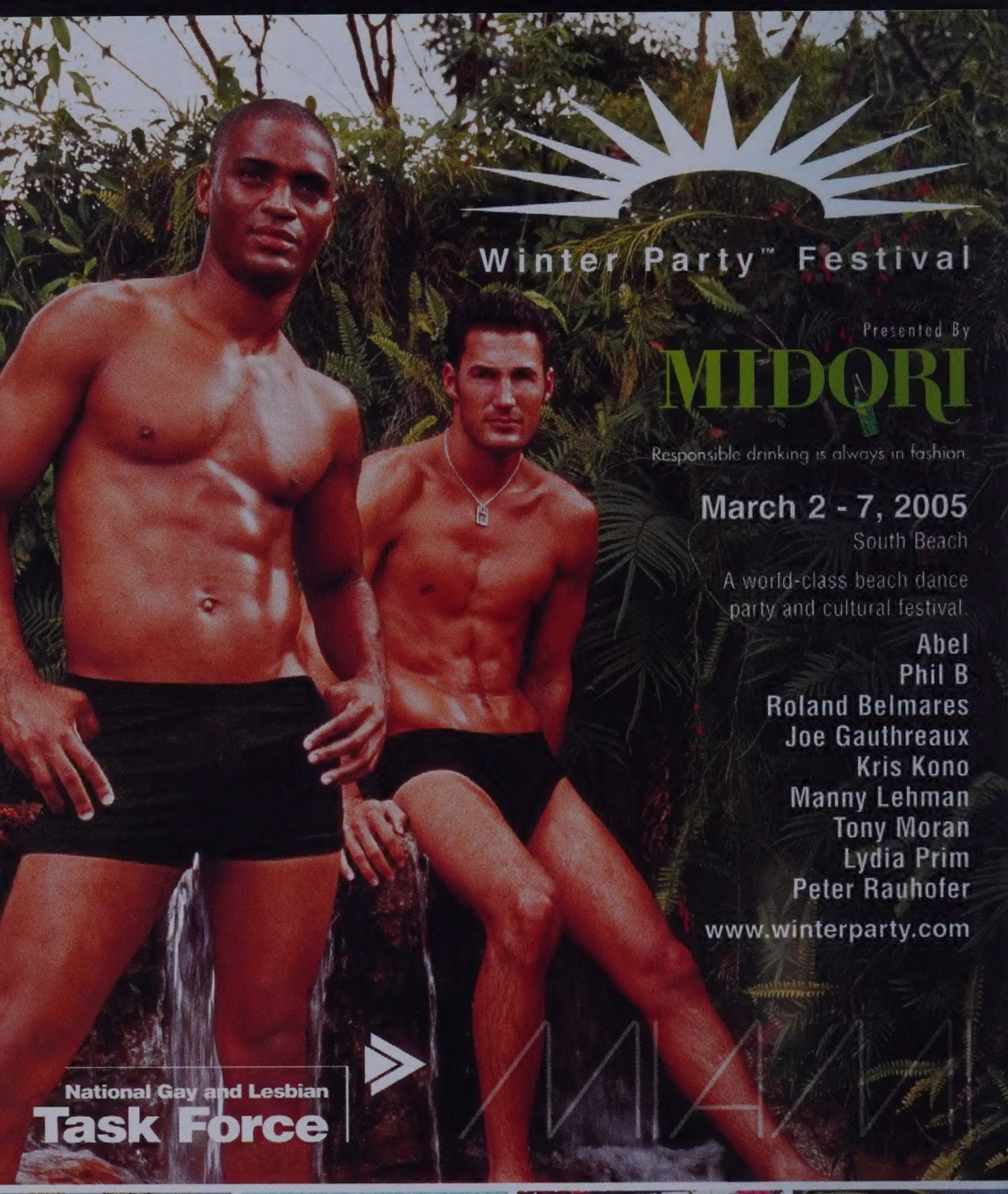

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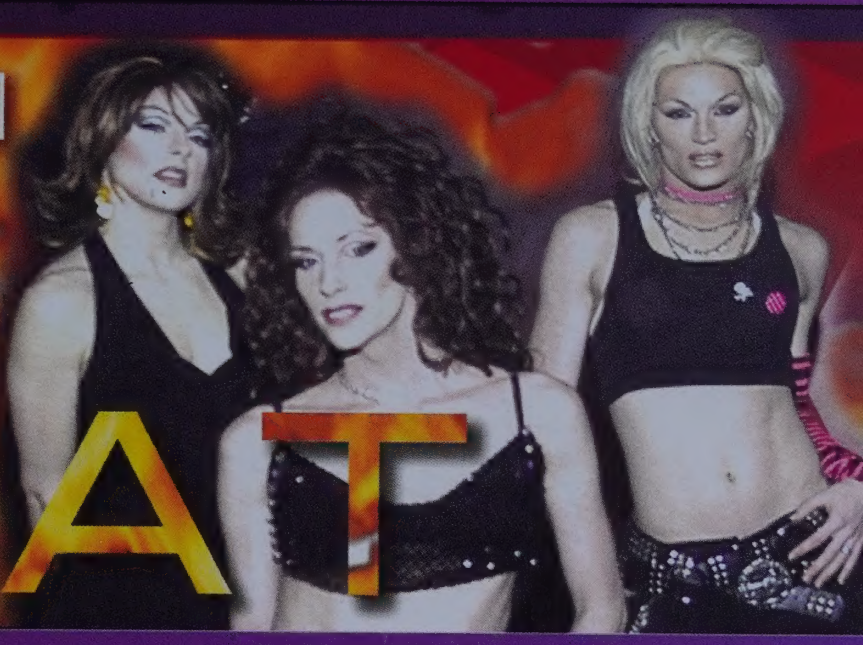

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WEDNESDAY

Les Girlzz of LeBuzz

THURSDAY

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SATURDAY

The Tequila Mockingbird Show

MONDAY

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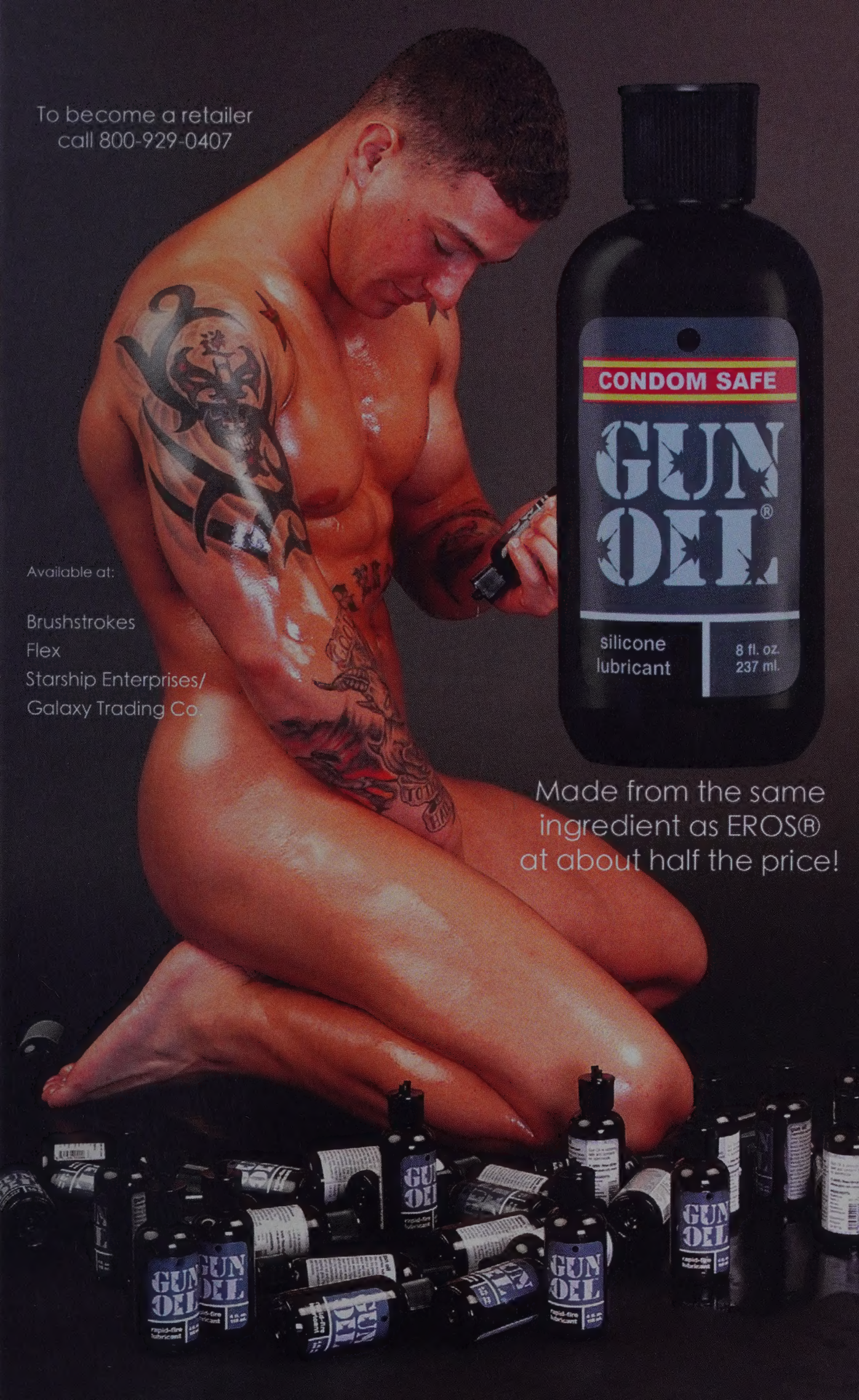
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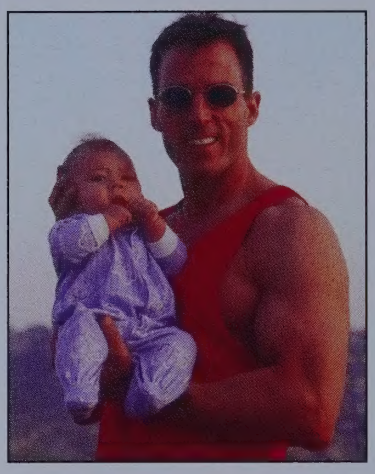
ABANDONMENT ISSUES

Will my boyfriend choose his child over me?



HEY WOODY!

The moment I met my boyfriend it was love at first sight. We fell deeply in love with each other.

Then he admitted a bombshell: He had a son he had abandoned. One day, he bumped into his son and his ex-wife at the mall. The boy asked his mother, "Who is this man?" My boyfriend was devastated and he decided he wanted to be part of his son's life. But the only way his ex-wife would let that happen is if he moved in with them. She knows he is gay and that he's madly in love with me but she doesn't care. It was her way or the highway. Surprisingly, my boyfriend agreed. He says he still loves me, and I know he does, but basically he abandoned me for her and the kid. I couldn't convince him that there are other alternatives. He doesn't have to give in to her, but he does. He still calls me every once in a while and we still end our conversations like we always do: "I love you!"

Woody, I don't want to give him up. What should I do?

— Heartbroken

DEAR HEARTBROKEN:

Without legal rights to the child he has to play by her rules or he doesn't play at all.

Your boyfriend is in a lose-lose position: Stay with the kid and lose you or stay with you and lose the kid. It's tragic: the only way he can right a wrong is to wrong a right — you.

Listen, he's not changing his mind. Know how I know? 'Cuz he hasn't cheated. He could have asked you to visit under the witch's radar but he didn't.

He's made his decision and now it's time you made yours. That means you call him up and say, "I respect the choice you've made and now I'm asking you to respect mine: Our relationship is over. I need to move on and the only way I can do that is to stop all contact with you; at least for a while. I love you, goodbye."

And then use every blocker you can — call blocks, e-mail blocks, cock blocks, that sort of thing. Your heart will break so badly your friends will hear the jingle every time you walk, but you know what? It's already broken. It's time to put it back together.

HEY WOODY!

Someone told me you could avoid HIV if a positive guy comes inside you by taking the HIV cocktail right after it happens. You mean as long as I pop a few pills after I bareback I don't have to worry about anything?

— Hoping against hope

DEAR HOPING:

Here's what the new studies by the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) showed: "People at high risk of HIV infection because of their behavior" (a diplomatic phrase the CDC uses for what I call whores) show that a two- or three-drug cocktail after possible exposure is likely to prevent infection.

In a trial of 200 gay and bisexual Brazilians "at high risk of HIV Infection" (again, whores, but they're Brazilian so you know at least they're gorgeous whores), here's what happened: Only one person in the group that used the cocktail treatment after unprotected sex turned positive, while 11 people in the group that didn't take the drugs got infected.

This is great news for people who've exposed themselves to a high probability of infection. But don't be an idiot. The "morning after" pills are designed for treatment not prevention. First, it isn't 100 percent effective. Second, there's no logic to it. Using the "morning after" pills to avoid condoms is like women using abortion to avoid birth control.

Yuck. ■

Woody is the author of "Alexander the Fabulous: The Man Who Brought the World to Its Knees." He can be reached at needwood@mac.com.

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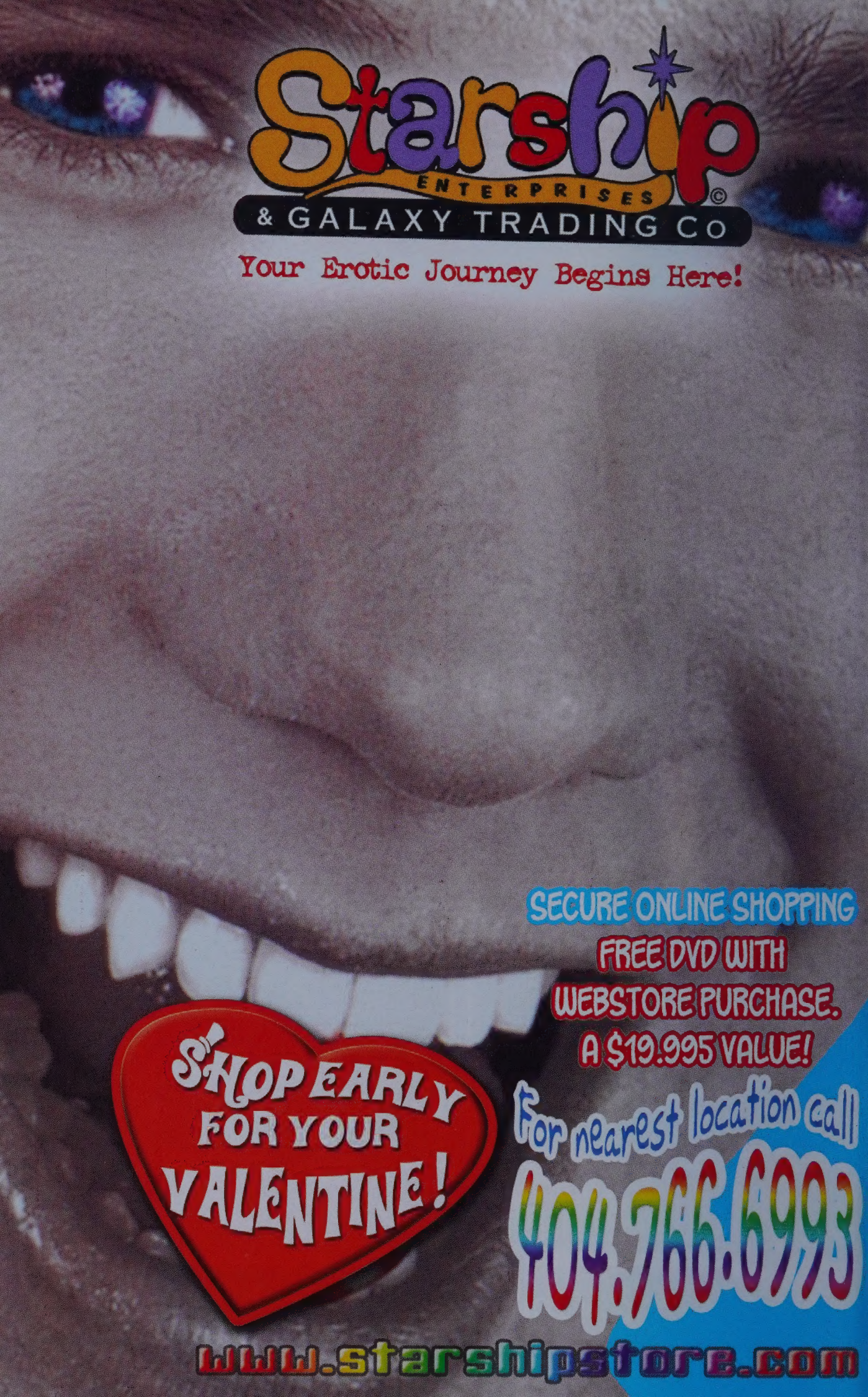
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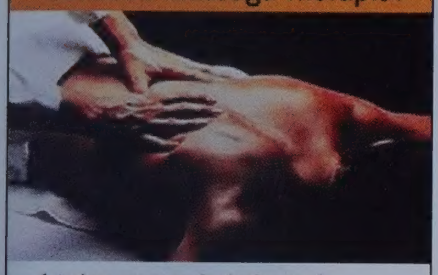

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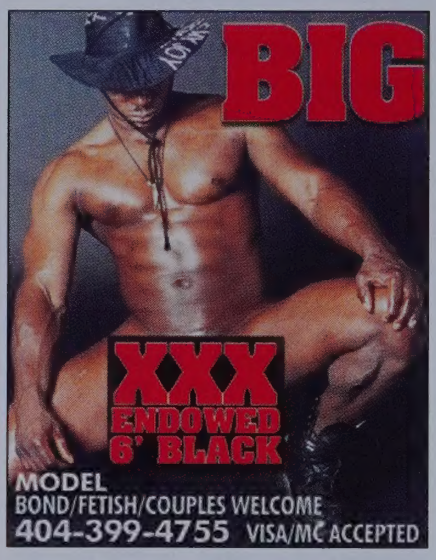

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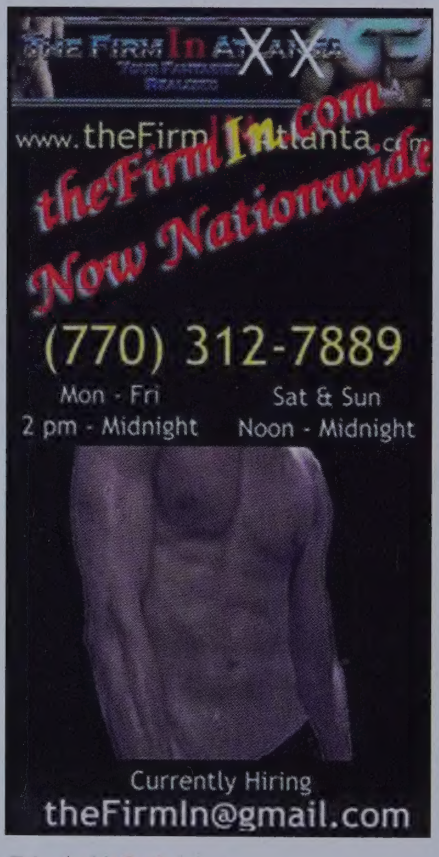

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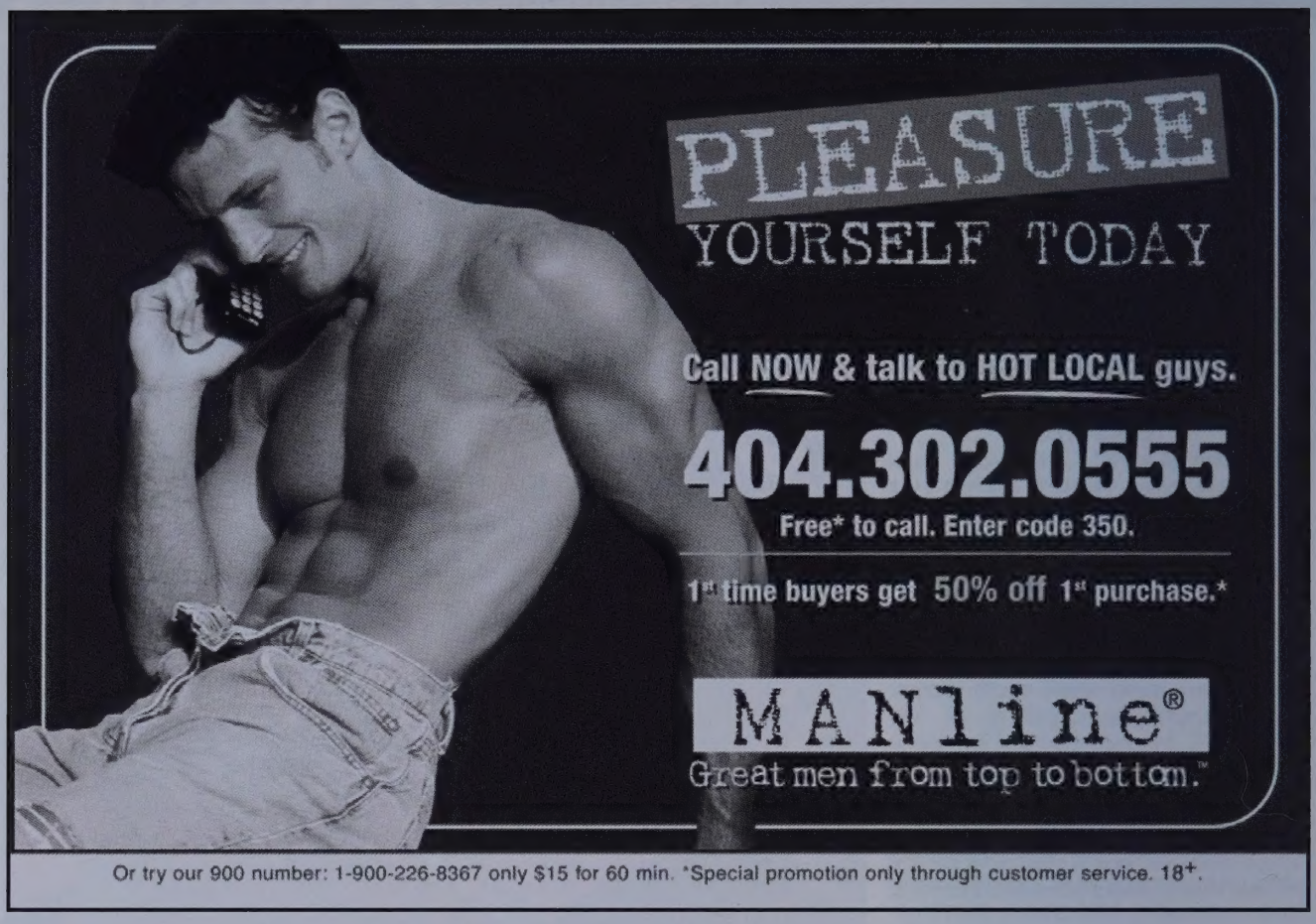
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I love how you're walking down the street holding your boyfriend's hand and cruising mine. Real nice.

If only you weren't so obsessed with your perfectly gelled and coiffed "Gay Hello!" haircut, you too could wear a baseball cap!

Asian guys are really getting hotter.

How dare my parents pay a doctor to rip off part of my penis so I would look like all the other ugly dicks!

not a word; "who you is?" is not how to ask someone to identify himself.

As a gay African American, I've often wondered why people get so offended when stereotyped. Whether they are correct or false in their assertions, it only offends if you let it.

What's the deal with saying "I love you" and calling me every other week? If you really loved me, wouldn't you want to see me more often?

Why do guys at the gym think I want to talk to them in the locker room when they are completely naked? It's so disgusting. I'm just trying to get out of there as fast as I can.

How would my ex-wife react if she heard I was marrying a gay Druid?

Guys, enough with the drag queen eyebrows! Please! Stop waxing, tweezing, and plucking your brows into ridiculous arches and barely-there brows. You look pathetic. And it's NOT hot.

Don't tell me you think I'm involved in "trickery" when you go home to a man who has lied to you from day one. I actually love you and would never stoop to that level!

I can't speak for all gay men who have tattoos, but I like body art. As for compensating for lack of size, trust me, you couldn't handle my penis or my husband's. Let alone the pain the tattoos themselves cause.

Let's ban hunting in bars and clubs, and ban smoking in the countryside!

I am a lesbian in a committed relationship, and a dear gay male couple has asked me to be a surrogate. They would make wonderful parents, so I think I may do it, and my lover agrees. Is this as rare as I think it is?
Bitch Boy responds: What is this "Ask Bitch Boy" or "Bitch Session"?

I am black and I'm tired of the stereotypical ways other blacks behave, like purposefully speaking English incorrectly: "Conversate" is

To the bitch who asked if it was the year of "getting an Asian boyfriend": Look here, Asians make up the majority of the world; it's only fair that they start representing in the gay community. By the way, the term is Asian American, not just Asian!

The individual who blames not music but society for drug use is a sellout! The reason people take drugs is because they choose to.

How would my ex-wife react if she heard I was marrying a gay Druid? I doubt she'd care about your beliefs or orientation, but if she saw you, she'd have me committed!

I'm not looking for anyone right now. I don't feel ready. Prodding me isn't going to make me ready, and I don't want to trick in the meantime.

I'm tired of all these so-called "dom" women. All they do is sleep around and spread disease.

Keep in mind that you're more interested in what you have to say than anyone else is.

To the guy who doesn't think that gay men want to be married: Some of us have actually found Mr. Right instead of just Mr. Right Now, and we're ready to settle down.

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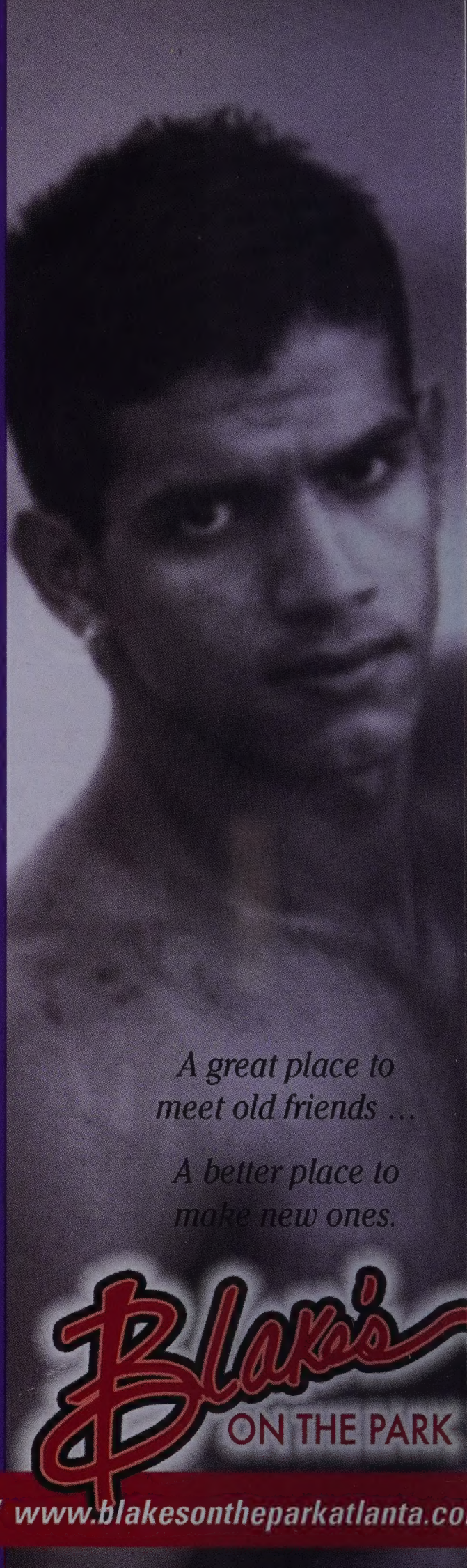

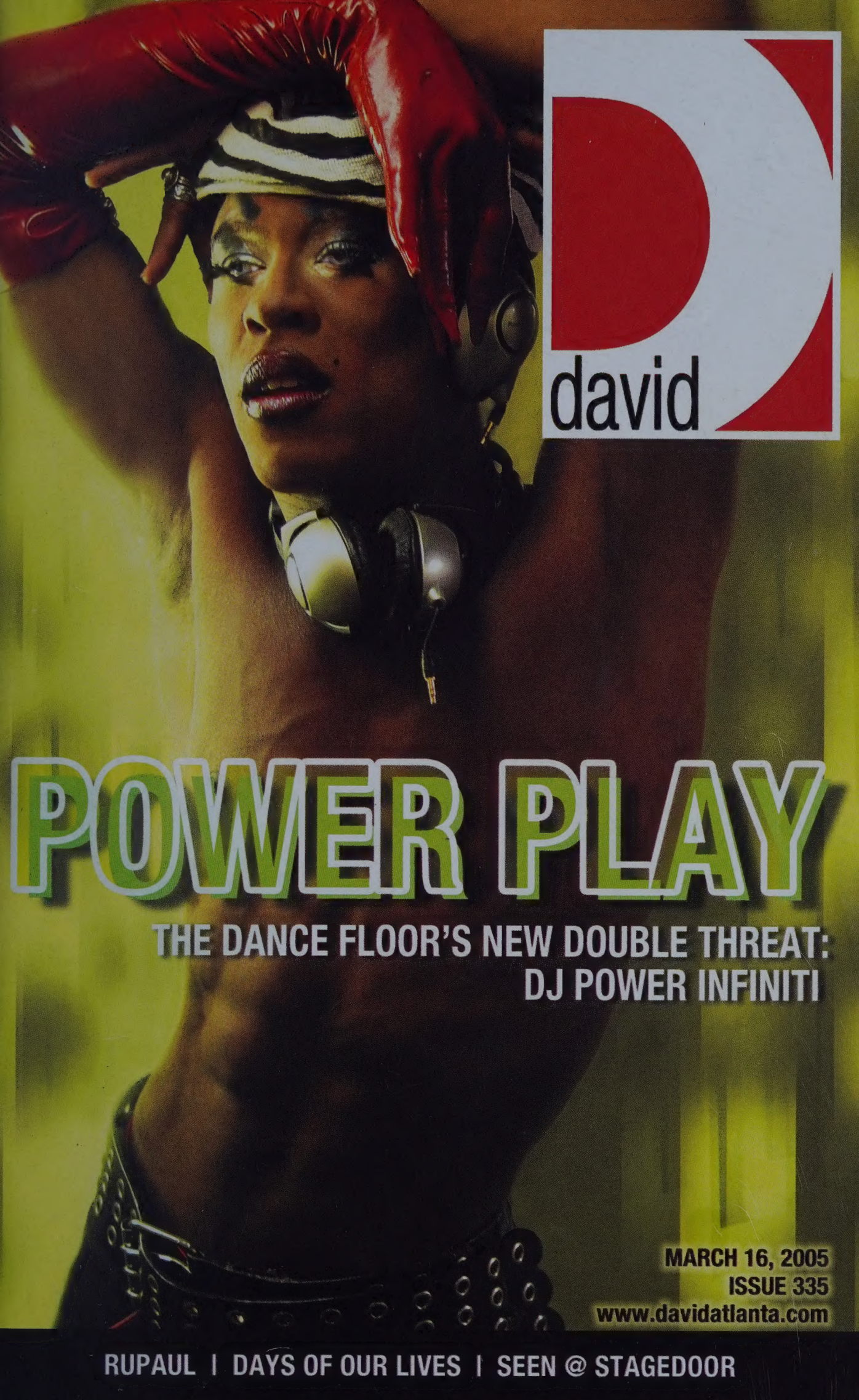

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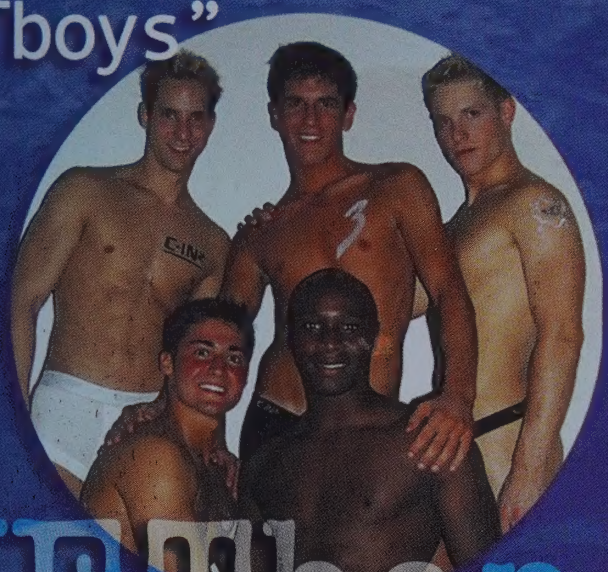

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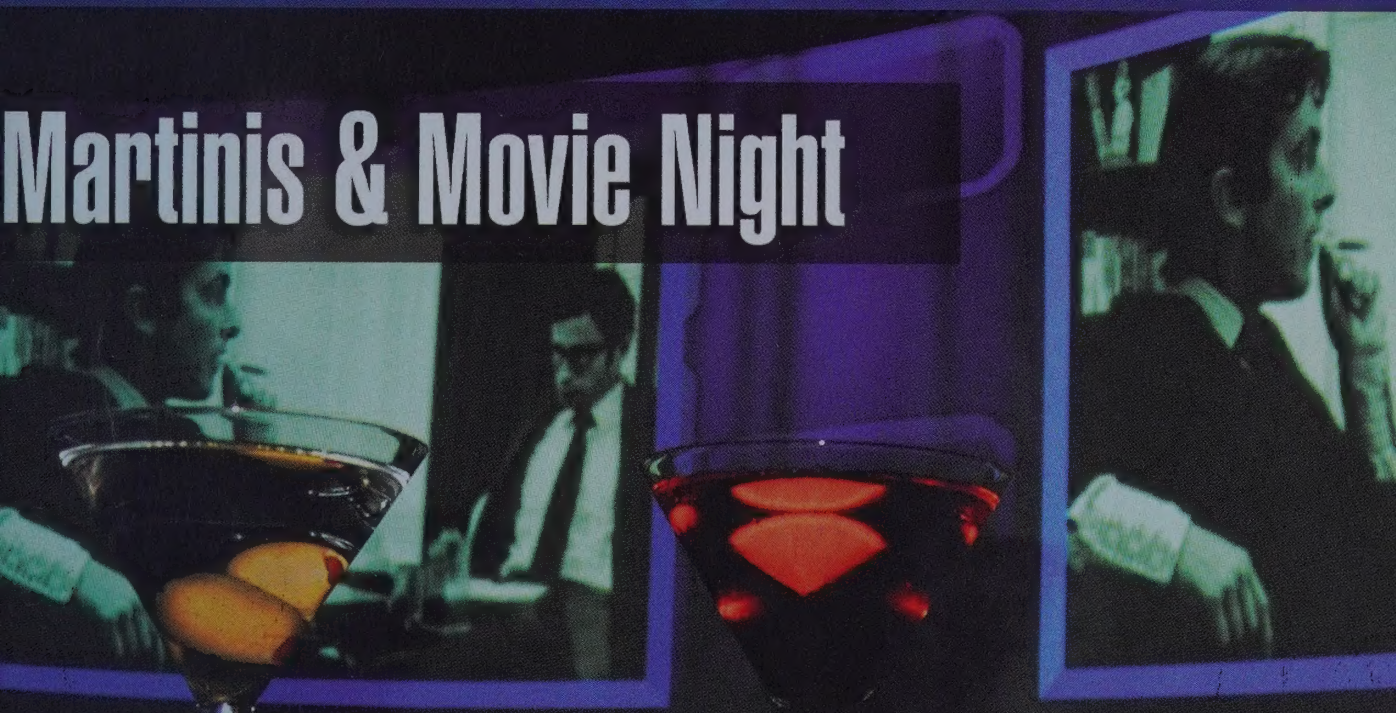

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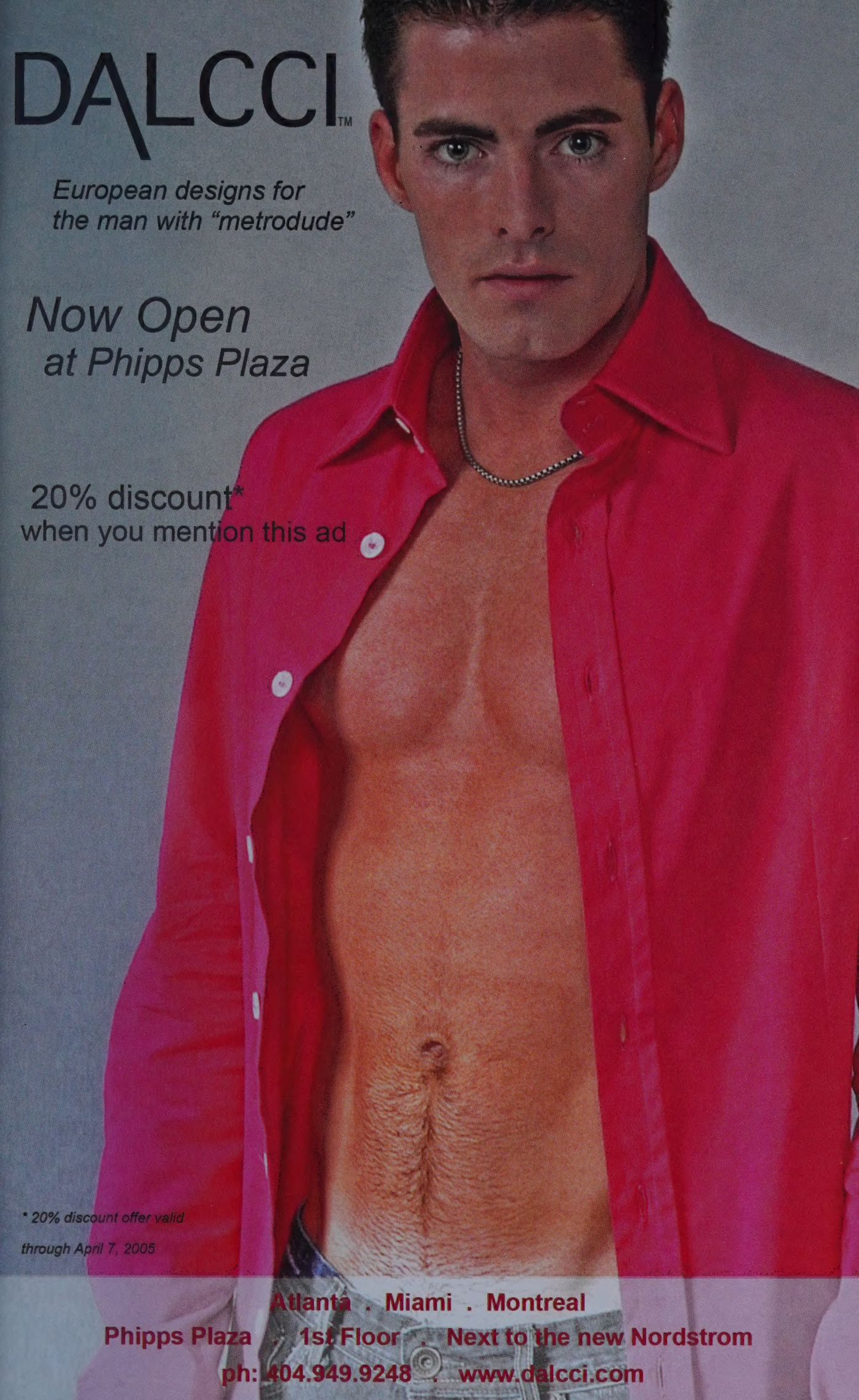
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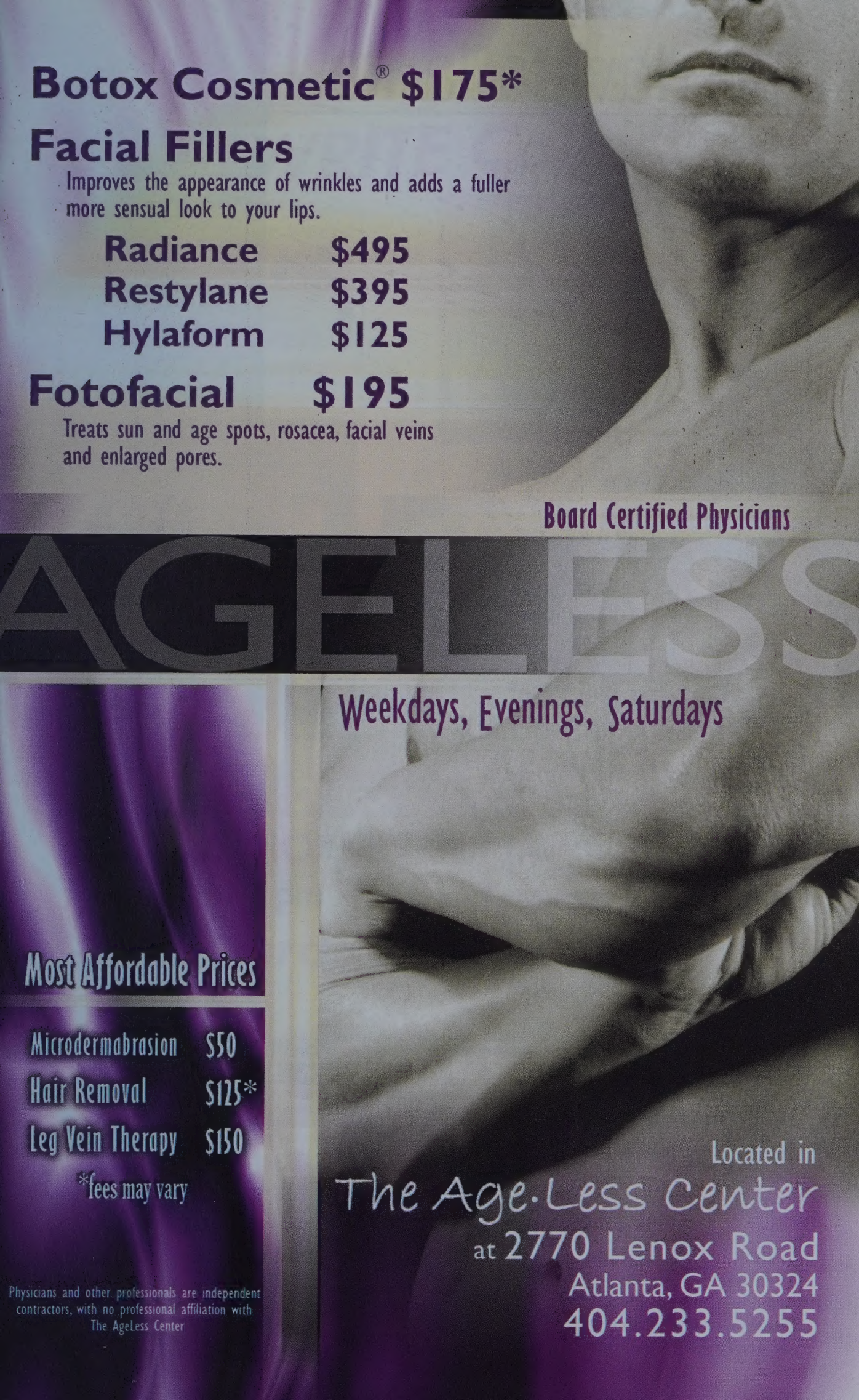

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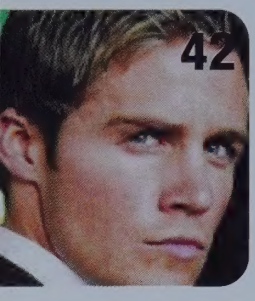

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About the cover: DJ Power Infiniti photograph courtesy of DaleStine.com

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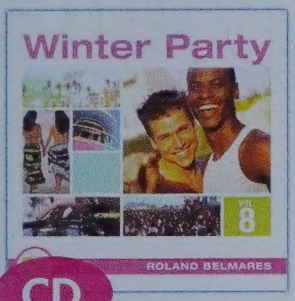

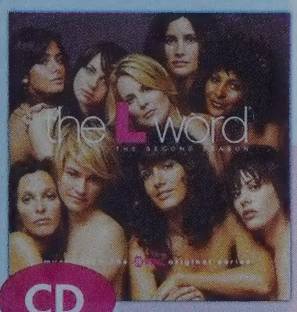

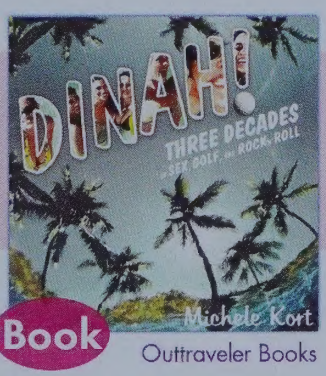

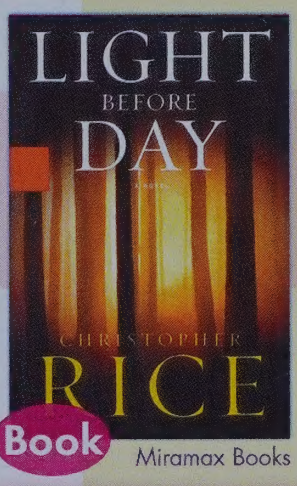

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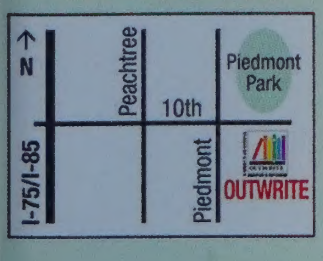

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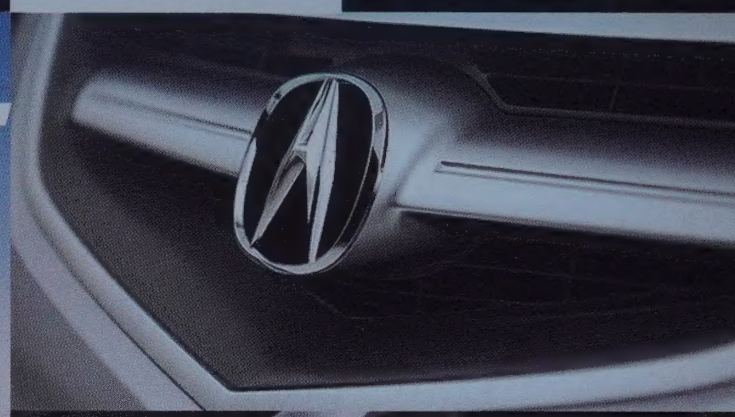

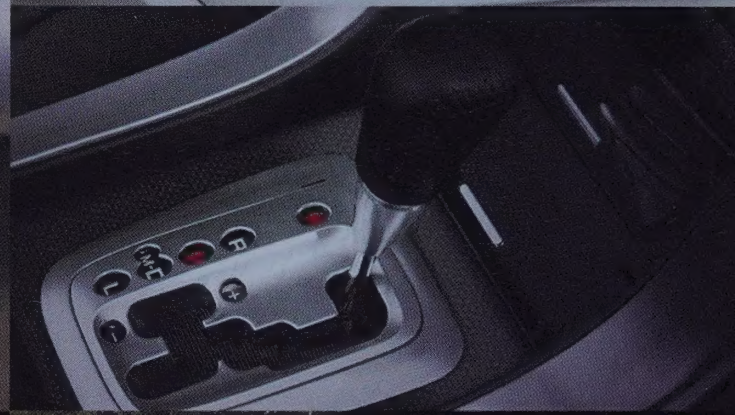

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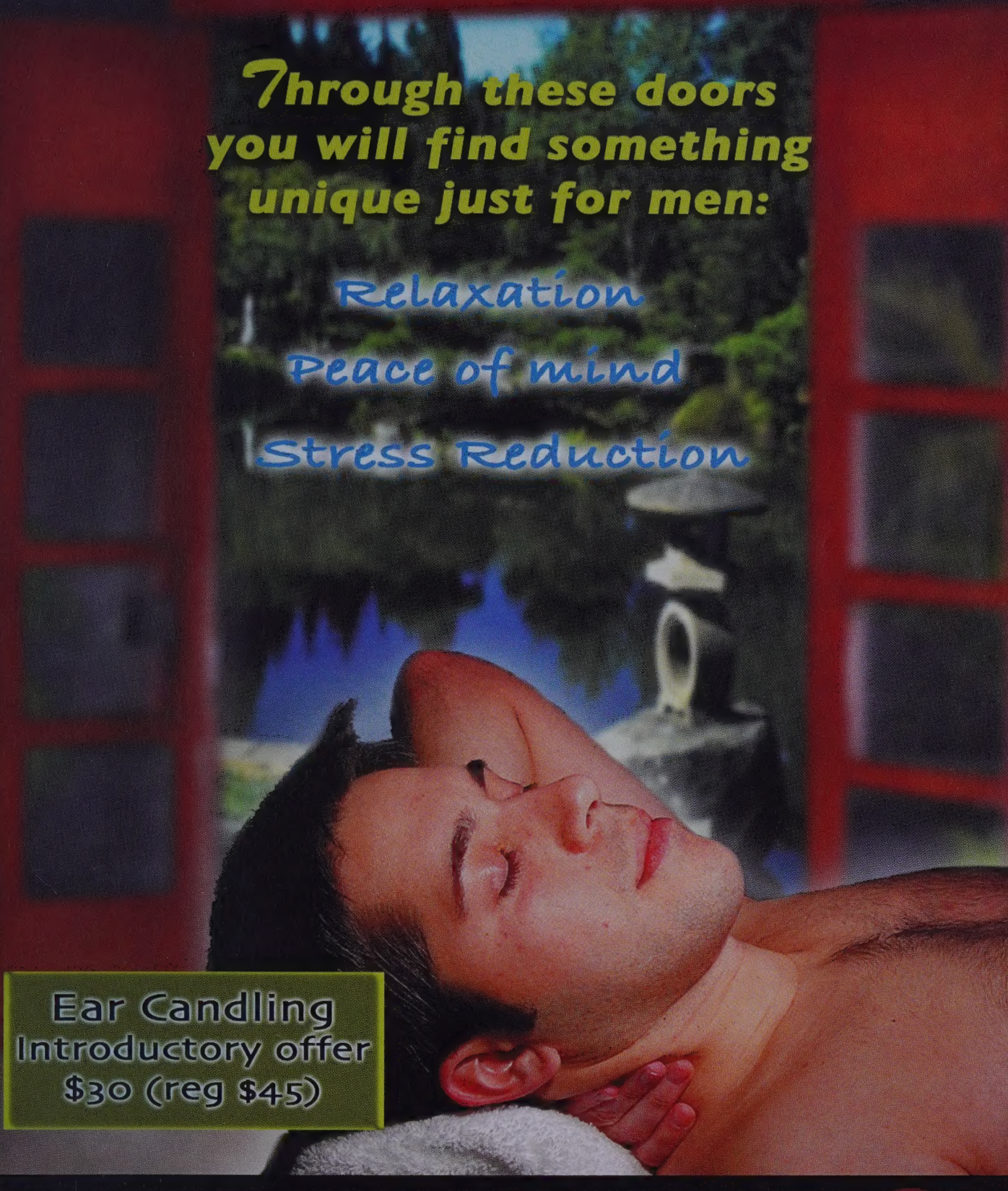

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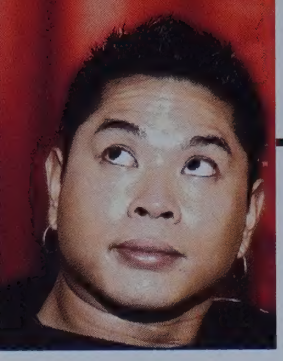

GUEST LIST BY ARMAN D. REYES

WHO GOT IN,
WHO WAS LEFT OFF
AND WHO SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE

Bits and pieces

Backstreet lives on, plus schmoozing with award recipients

IT SEEMS BACKSTREET ATLANTA is long gone but hardly forgotten. Just about everywhere we've been in the past week has had a bit of the old stomping ground integrated into its present. It's like the city of Atlanta detonated a bomb in Backstreet and all the shrapnel just coincidentally landed in other gay bars. It's not just the fixtures, furniture or electronics either; we're also talking about some of Atlanta's favorite faces found there week in and week out.

Take this past Tuesday night for example: There we were having a quiet night of cocktails with some dear friends and about 30 strippers at **Swinging Richard's** when out of our peripheral vision we clocked **Miss Billie** behind the bar. What we found especially brilliant is that Miss Billie can also be found bartending at the **Armory** for **"Naked Boys Singing."** Between Backstreet, Richard's and "Naked Boys," we're willing to wager that Billie has seen most of the city without clothes on. So, for that we've created a whole new award just for Billie: Pimp of the Year.

AND THE AWARD GOES TO

WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT of "Naked Boys," the birthday suit boys were recently seen entertaining quite a beautiful crowd at the **Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner,** "Taking Our Place @ the Table" on March 9 at the King Plow Arts Center. Star 94 FM's **Vikki Locke** kept the flow of the ceremony humorous and upbeat and gave plenty of time for lots of mixing and mingling — aka gossiping and zingers.

Among the semi-formal dressed crowd was the Atlanta Pride Committee's head diva, **Donna Narducci**, Urban Body Fitness' **David Bower**, Hotlanta Soccer's **Ken Pedraza** and Onyx Marketing's **Carey Sherrell**. Awards were then given to several gay and gay-friendly business owners and non-profit organizations including **Brad Williams**, **Einstein's**, **Georgia Equality** and **Glen Paul Freedman**.

Congratulations to all the award recipients (we're anti-"and-the-winner-is" because it implies the rest of the nominations are non-winners). For a complete list, check out www.atlantagaychamber.org .

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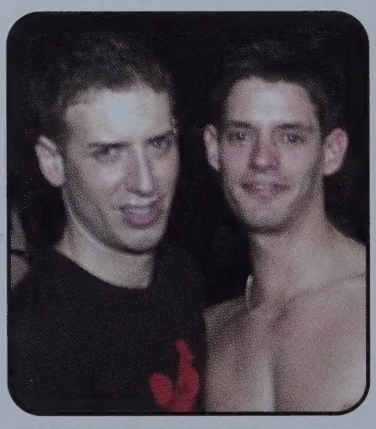

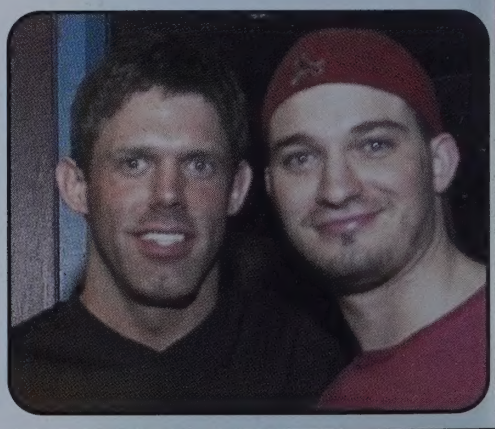

CURTAIN CALL

BACK TO THE PREVIOUS SUBJECT OF HOW Backstreet Atlanta can be found all over gay Atlanta — as far as Cobb County even. It seems ITP businesses weren't the only ones to take advantage of Backstreet's Yard Sale last fall. **Le Buzz** is now the proud owners of the curtains that were formerly in Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret where they're put to good use nearly every day of the week for performances and shows by Les Girlzz of Le Buzz.

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

ARGUABLY THE MOST PROLIFIC OF BACKSTREET components is **Charlie Brown's Cabaret**, which picked up and moved itself down to Underground.

One of the more interesting aspects of the show, aside from the fact that the Magnificent Seven transferred Downtown completely intact, is their new Thursday night Talent Search. The best talent of the night is chosen by audience response and is brought back to perform on one of the Cabaret's weekend nights. Past audience approved performers include **Jealousé**, **Angelica Diamante** and **Destiny**.

SPOTLIGHT

AND, THE LAST COUPLE OF INTEGRATED Backstreet elements can be found at **Jungle**, where 12-year Backstreet Atlanta DJ veteran **Bill Berdeaux** can be found at the helm of Inferno Fridays.

If you look closely, you can also see the revolving light fixtures and the infamous mirrorball that people used to formerly worship on Backstreet's dance floor. It's funny how the more things change the more they stay the same. ■

Arman D. Reyes likes fruity, girly drinks.
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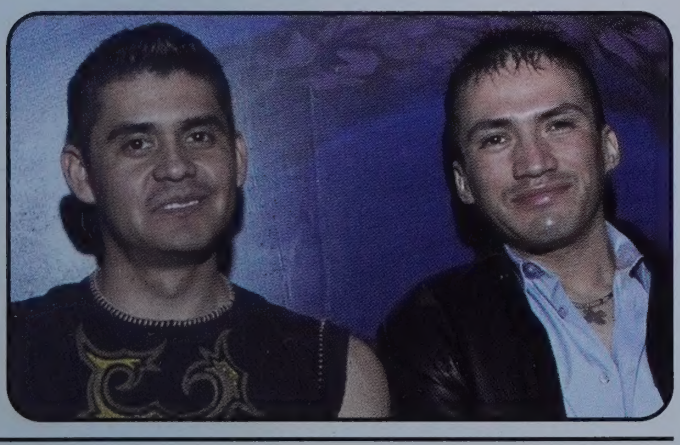

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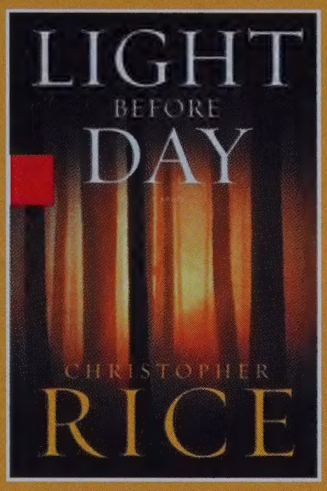

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2. **"Undercover"** by Laurinda D. "Brown (Strebor)
3. **"Home is Where the Heart Is"** by Bruce Weber (Te Neues)
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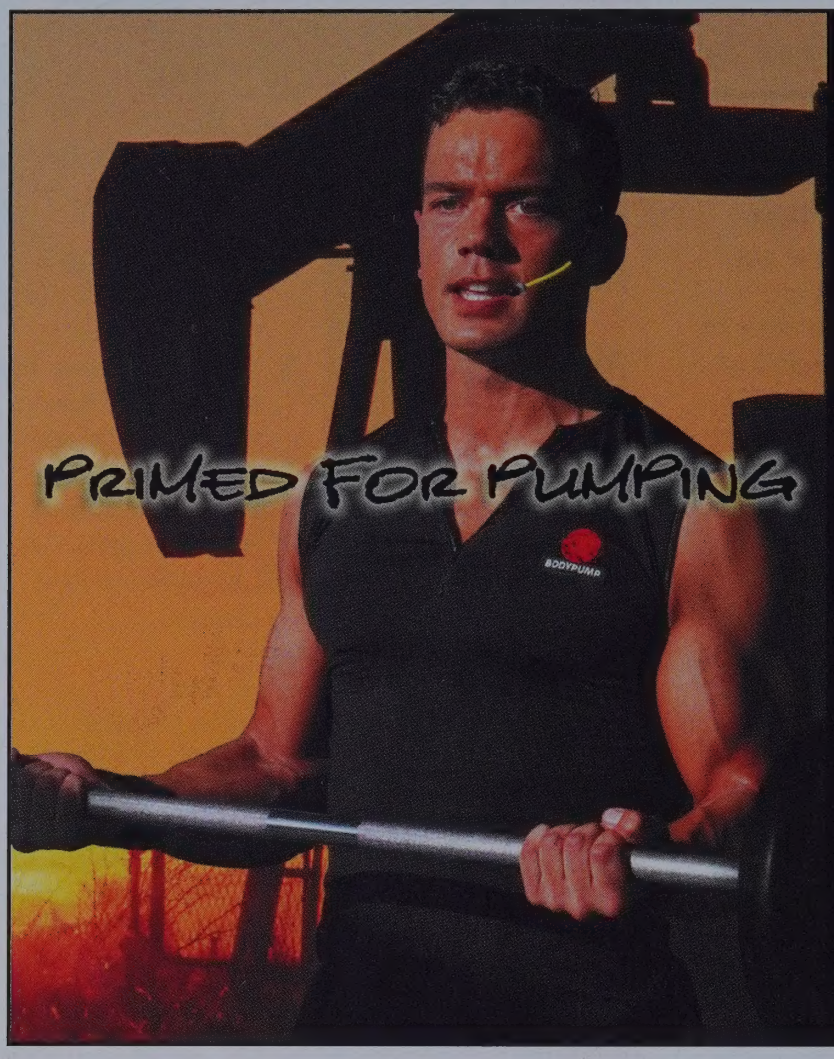

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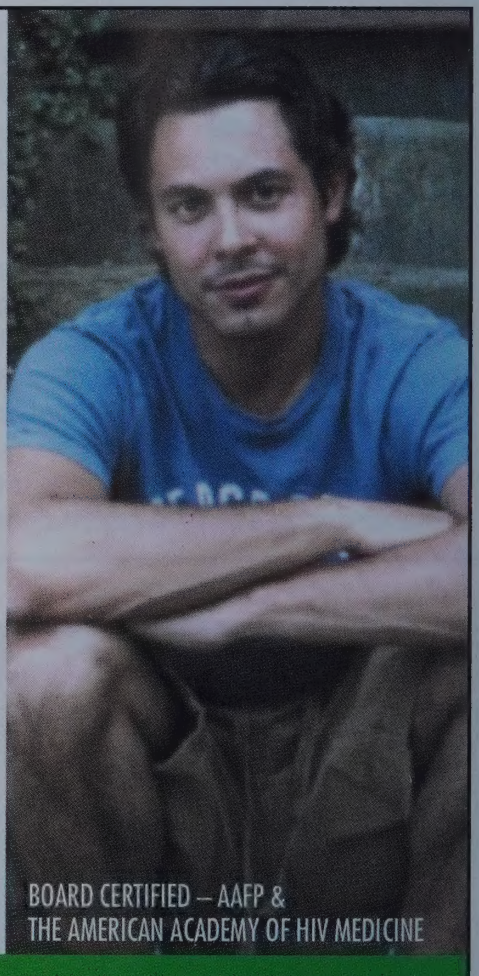

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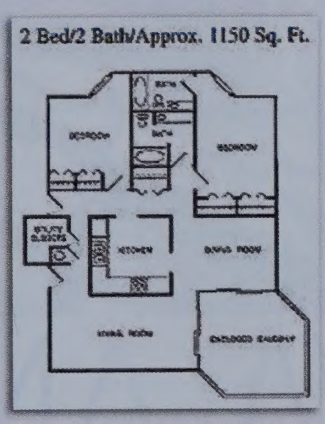

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A DIVA AND A DJ

After taking time off, **Power Infiniti** returns to the stage — and the DJ booth

If necessity is the mother of invention, what about *reinvention*?

For Power Infiniti, the answer is burn-out and an innate desire to stretch personal limits.

Over the past several years Power has become a de rigeur headliner for large-scale circuit events, known for lavish costumes, hunky back-up dancers and a flare for drama that made him a favorite draw among the sweaty masses.

The Miami-based performer — a native of Trinidad Togabo whose parents came to the U.S. when he was three weeks old — says he always had a longing to be on stage. But in 2002 he knew it was time for a change. After taking a year off, Power's back and now a double threat: playing both DJ and performer in a single evening.

Unfortunately, his Atlanta premiere in late January ran into a few technical glitches, due to the ice storm that hit the city and knocked off the power, er, electricity at the closing party for Traxx. Not one to be deterred, Power delayed the gig until the next afternoon. He returns to town this weekend to give the ATL another taste of his newfound talents.

***David*: How long have you been performing?**

Power Infiniti: I've been a star for eight years. [Laughs.] No, I started performing eight years ago. But I only started DJing last year.

In 1997 I entered a talent contest at a Miami club called Splash. I was trying to raise money for a surprise birthday party for my mother. I ended up winning the contest and the money. The next night I entered another contest, a strip contest, and won that one too.

Where did your name come from?

It was a nickname I had since I was 13. I was the shortest kid on the block and I used to get picked on. But since I would always win the fights, the kids called me "Power."

How has your performance changed since 1997?

I've evolved and grown as a performer. Back then I was more of a club kid, I guess you'd say. But from the minute I stepped on stage it was about the costumes and the actual performance itself.

So you never did the camp or glamour drag thing?

No, but I live for drag queens. Lord knows I've been associated with that term all my career. But I don't do drag. I'm a performance artist. My performance is all about theatrics and not about gender. So no, I never wore the sequined dress or anything like that.

Tell me about this switch to spinning.

In 2002 I was starting to get a little burned out and I knew the crowd was going to get burned out seeing me perform in every city and on every stage. So I decided then to take a year off to learn how to DJ. I stopped doing the parties altogether and started turning down gigs while I was learning.

Now it's 2005 and the bitch is back. And now you get a total package. You get a DJ and a diva all at once. When I come to Atlanta I'll be doing both. That's the one thing I can do that none of the others can do — not my sister Abel, not Junior, none of them. No one can work the whole night like I can.

continued next page

continued from page 23

Describe your musical style.

I really don't know. I play progressive and tribal house. I fuse vocals as well as deep tribal grooves. I've had promoters for some reason believe my style is hard, which I don't understand, because I haven't been out there enough to really have gotten a reputation for my style. At the same time, I've made an eight-year career out of vocals. So obviously I love vocals.

Your last trip to Atlanta didn't go quite as planned. What's your hope for this visit?

I've always said, and this is the absolute truth, that Atlanta happens to be my favorite city to go to. And I've been all over the world. Atlanta was my first out of town gig, at a party called the Leo Party. So I've had the longest relationship with the city than any other. And I still have the most friends there.

What's next for you?

I've gone back on tour. This year I'll be back at Disney [Gay Days Orlando] with Mark Baker. I'm also doing Cherry in D.C. and I have appearances in Chicago and Cleveland also coming up. And I've adopted Kitty Meow as my new roommate. She'll be going with me on tour.

What's your take on why the circuit scene is experiencing a dip?

I think that a lot of the circuit parties have become a bit repetitive in terms of creativity. I think a lot of the promoters were doing it for the wrong reasons. They're just trying to stuff their pockets and not caring about the guys who come to the parties anymore. I really feel that the circuit has become very cookie cutter.

Life goes on and things change. There's a lot of talent that's always springing up. Yet we see the same DJs and performers over and over again. That's why I decided to take a break. I mean, I'm Power and I was getting tired of me!

Sounds like you were getting pretty bored with it. A "Power" overload?

Don't get me wrong, I think the circuit is something that should be experienced. I think the parties can be incredibly fulfilling. The experience can be life-changing. There's such a cross culture of people coming together. It's a beautiful thing. You've just got to ensure that the people are doing it for the right reasons. ■

Power Infiniti spins and performs at Volume Productions' "Jumanji" party, Sat. March 19. Masquerade, 695 North Ave. 404-577-8178, www.masqueradeatlanta.com

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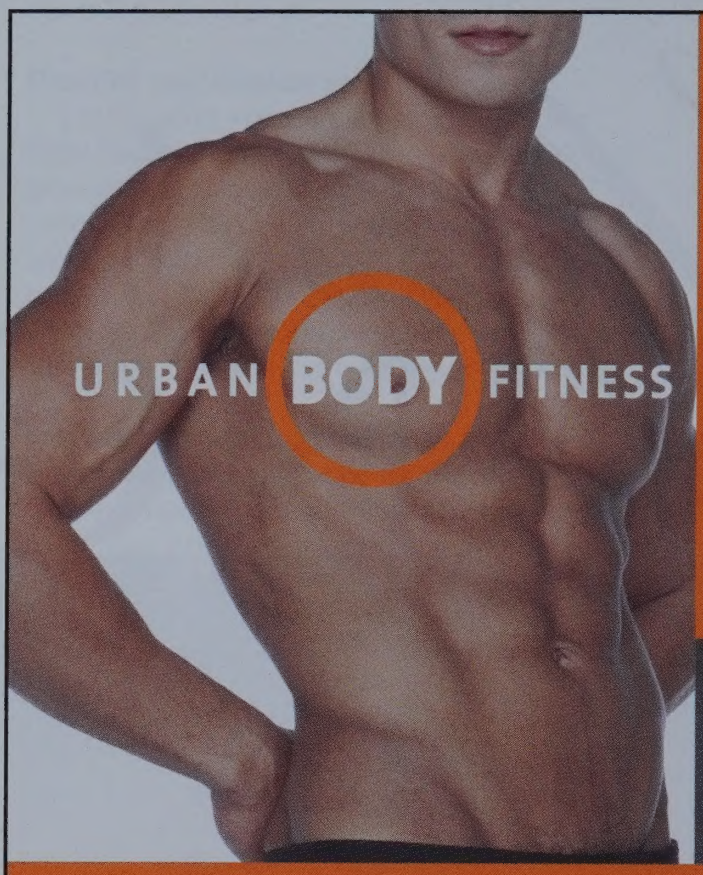

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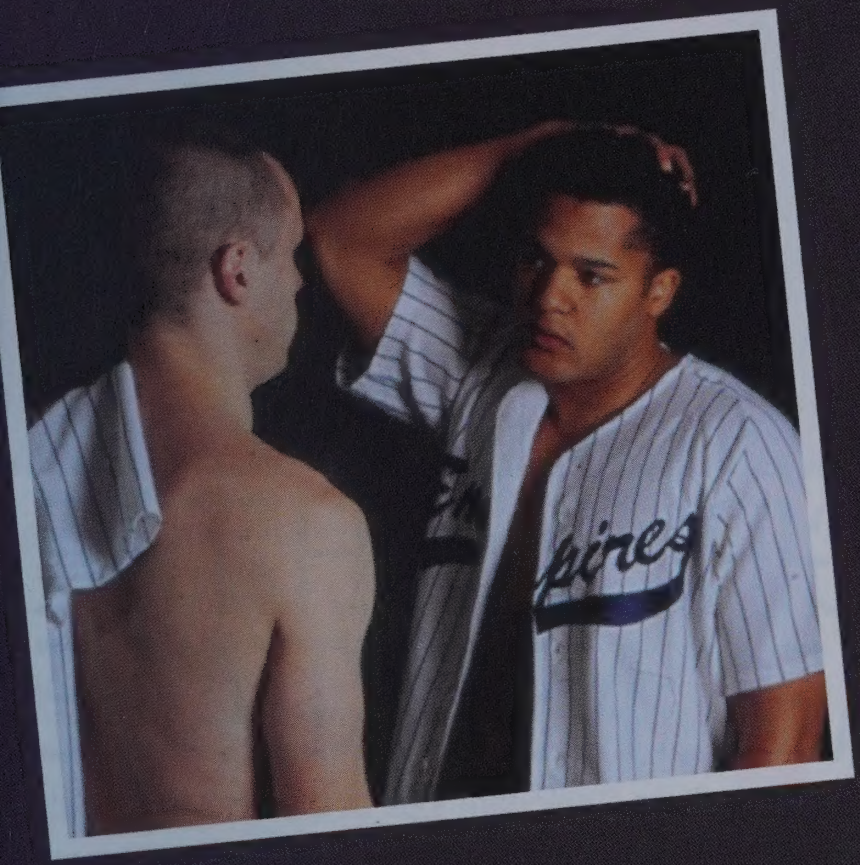

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Sally J. Robertson (left), Ann Wilson, Monica L. Williamson and Donna Biscoe in "String of Pearls"

ANDREA MINADAKIS

THE GIRL WITH THE PEARL NECKLACE

Horizon Theatre offers a poignant look at the lives of women

TWENTY-SEVEN ROLES. FOUR ACTRESSES. One necklace. In the hands of another playwright, this gem of a story at the heart of the original play "String of Pearls" may have well turned out counterfeit, but playwright Michele Lowe ("The Smell of the Kill," "Backsliding in the Promised Land") turns a fascinating concept into a captivating tale.

When we first meet Beth (Ann Wilson), she is a 74-year-old grandmother excitedly preparing for the wedding of her granddaughter, Amy (Monica L. Williamson). As a gift to the betrothed, Beth plans to give Amy a strand of pearls she has lovingly kept for 35 years. When she sets off to find the necklace, she opens a thread of memories and connections that she could have never imagined.

At 39, Beth is the meek little wife, caught up in an unfulfilling marriage with a distant husband and wondering what she can do to fix things. A trip to his high school reunion and an encounter with her husband's first love Beverly (Donna Biscoe) changes everything.

Seems all Beth had to do to spark a fire in her wedding bed was ask for a special gift from her husband. Think sexual position. Think the title of the play. After that, her marriage is reinvigorated and the timid wife becomes a satisfied woman. The string of pearls — along with the untimely loss of her husband — come later.

In the next scene in 1981, we find 42-year-old recent divorcee and single mother Ela (Biscoe), who takes in Beth's unwell daughter Linda (Sally J. Robertson) and a young Amy.

The two very different women form a fast friendship through the passage of time and the pain of loss. Again, the necklace is passed on.

Over the next 23 years, the perfect piece of jewelry is passed from woman to woman to woman; sometimes in a series of mishaps, sometimes as a timely gift, until it finally returns to its owner.

In a little less than two hours Lowe is able to open up these women's lives and show the ups and downs, the good and bad, of their existences and how the string of pearls plays a part in them. Painful memories, love and death, joy, friendship and hate are inexorably all tied together with the cultured strand.

At times, the stories drag a bit and can be tedious, but the thread never breaks and the story never loses its force. The women in Lowe's work are as diverse and individual as gems and all are given a singular voice, at times devastatingly poignant, at times riotously funny.

Power-driven political consultant, Tunisian refugee, European Holocaust survivor, domineering mothers and strained daughters and a lesbian gravedigger all share the limelight and not one detracts from the narrative. In not attempting to tell their story, Lowe ends up gifting her audience with much, much better cast of characters.

Although the ending is a bit far-fetched in how Beth's beloved bauble returns to her through a new-found lesbian love, the overall production is so inspiring, and the characters so inviting, that that matters little.

Megan Monaghan, who has directed acclaimed Atlanta productions such as "Bent" (Actor's Express), "8 1/2 x 11" (Dad's Garage), and "Leap" (Theater Emory) scores yet again with this sweet and well-paced production. She does not rush her actors nor does she allow the action to ever lag. Monaghan has an obvious talent for working with highly trained casts and displays a palpable love for the work that shines through in her dexterous direction.

The quartet of Williamson, Wilson, Robertson and Biscoe are each a pearl of her own, that come together to make a perfect strand. The shared talent of these actors combines to craft a near-perfect production.

As was overheard from a member of the audience at the end of the play: "This was a very nice play." Very nice and flawlessly formed, like the gems — and the characters lives — to which "String of Pearls" pays homage. ■

"String of Pearls" runs at Horizon Theatre, 1083 Austin Ave., Little Five Points, through April 3. Tue.-Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 8:30 p.m., Sun. 5 p.m. $20-$30. 404-584-7450. www.horizontheatre.com

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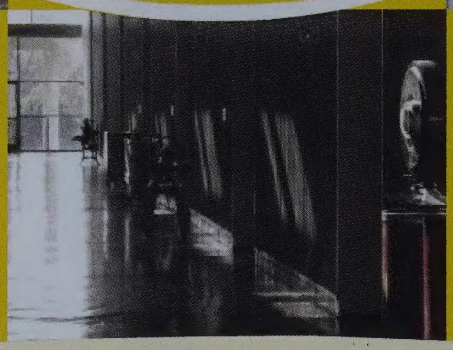

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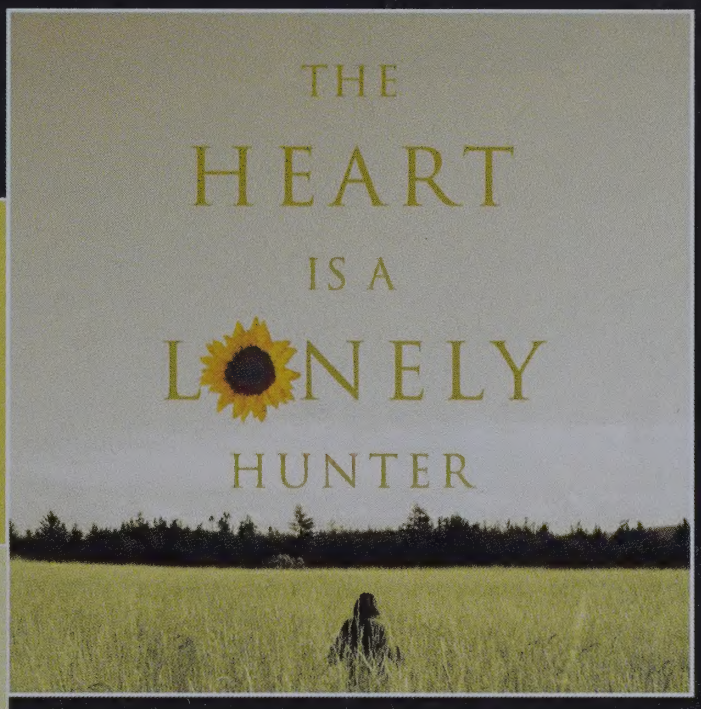

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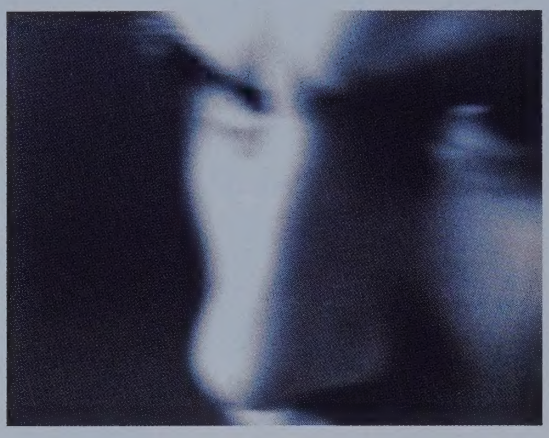


BOYFRIEND ENVY

What happens to **your friends** when your dating gets serious?

WHEN WE'RE SINGLE, OUR FRIENDS ARE like family. Friends are our confidants, the people we share our innermost thoughts with, the guys we get together with for a beer on Wednesdays and brunch on Sundays. In the age of cell phones, it's not unusual for some friends to be in touch several times a day. Friendships enrich our lives and keep loneliness at bay.

You might think that friends would also be delighted when your new boyfriend turns into someone very special. Funny how that's not always the case.

If you and your best friend have been the go-everywhere-together guys, it can be disorienting when what you want to do and who you want to do it with shifts significantly. Going out and dancing all night may be less of a priority. And if you've been busy all day with work or out of town on business, chances are you're going to dial up your boyfriend first, not your old buddy.

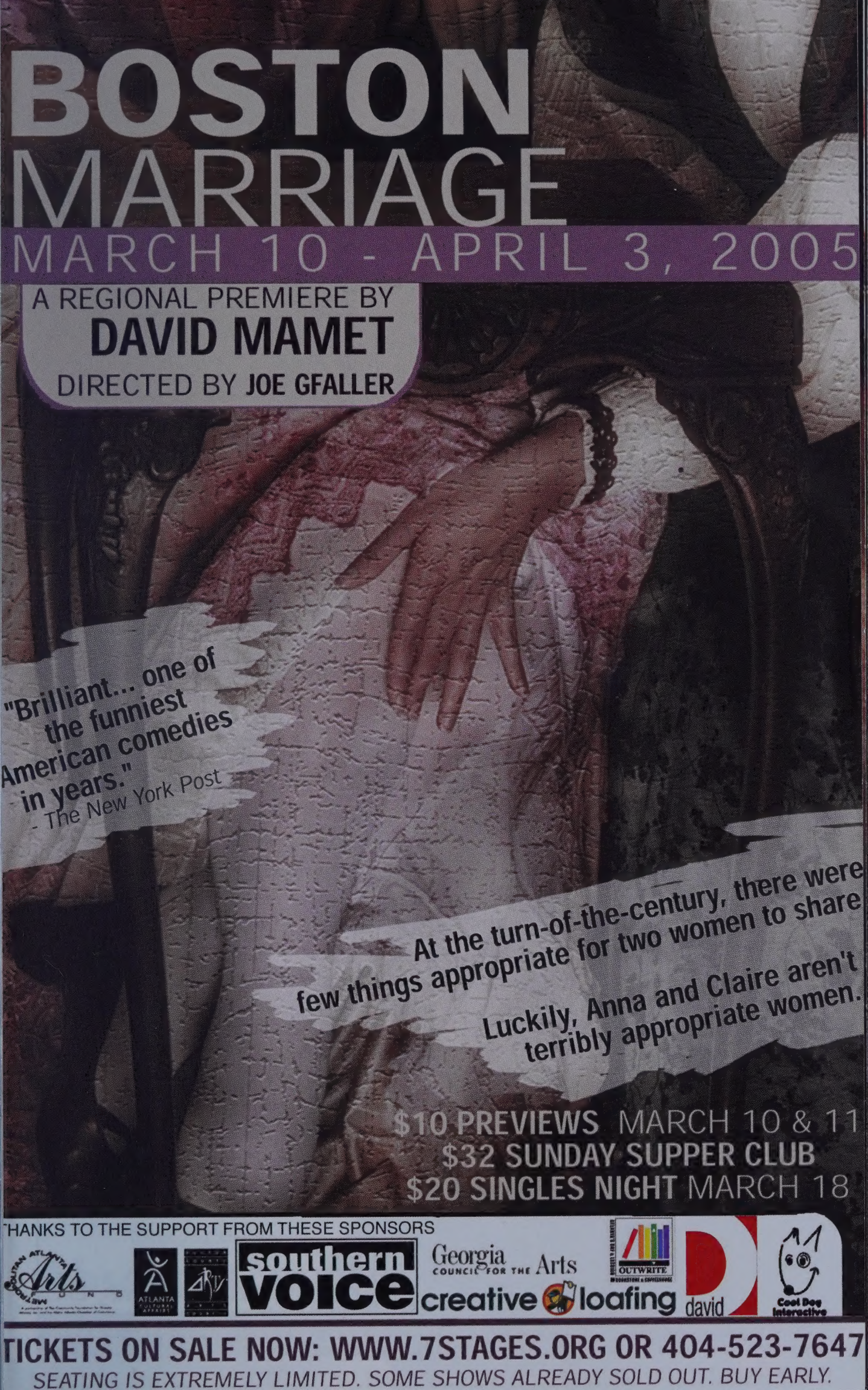
This is, of course, entirely natural. Healthy individuals with healthy friendships accommodate to these new realities without permanent damage to the friendship. You and your chum may need to talk it through if he's feeling hurt about having less of your time and attention. But some losses are necessary in life, opening space up for more of what we really want. And even if you've got a boyfriend now, you're still going to need friends. No one person is going to meet all your needs, no matter how wonderful the relationship.

But sometimes things don't go well. When you're in love, your perspective changes. It's a little like being obsessed, and it's easy to be thoughtless around old friends, who may not want to hear endless details of the cute thing your stud muffin did last night, or what a hottie he is in the sack, or ... you get the idea. A little consideration goes a long way, guy. Friendships are give and take, not an endless recitation of the joys (or dramas) or your love life.

Some men react badly when a friend falls head over heels in love. They get jealous. They nitpick your new guy, finding faults with everything from his table manners to his place of birth. If it gets really nasty, you may get the sense that your relationship is being undermined or sabotaged. What do you do if you find that's the case? It may be hard, but you're going to have to set some limits. It's not OK for people to insult the man you're choosing to date.

What if all your friends dislike your new sweetie? First, consider the source. Criticism from guys who have a history of awful relationships — or no relationships at all — don't get quite the weight that concerns from men who know more about what makes love last. But if your friends are people who have given you reliable advice when you've needed it and if you've found they are usually on target when they offer an opinion, it may be time to step back a bit and listen. Maybe what you're getting isn't jealousy. Maybe it's a word of caution that is worthy of your attention. ■

John R. Ballew, M.S., is a licensed professional counselor in private practice in Atlanta. He specializes in issues related to coming out, sexuality and relationships and spirituality. He can be reached at 404-874-8536 or www.bodymindsoul.org.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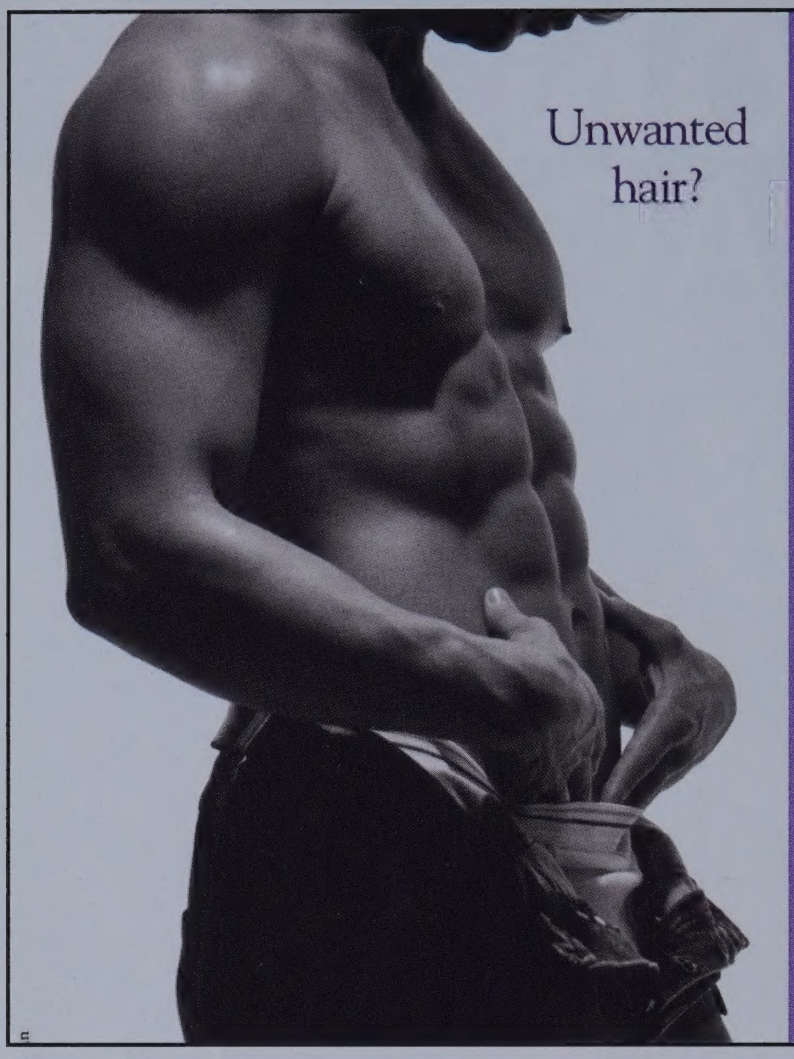

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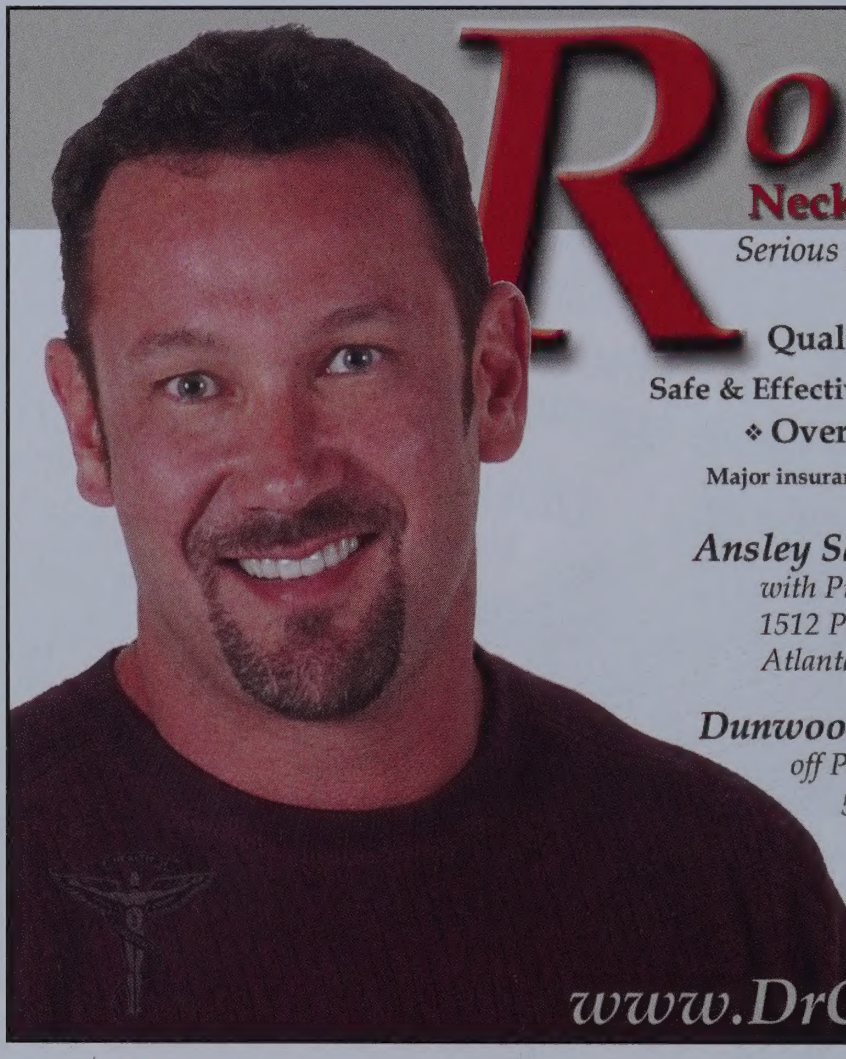

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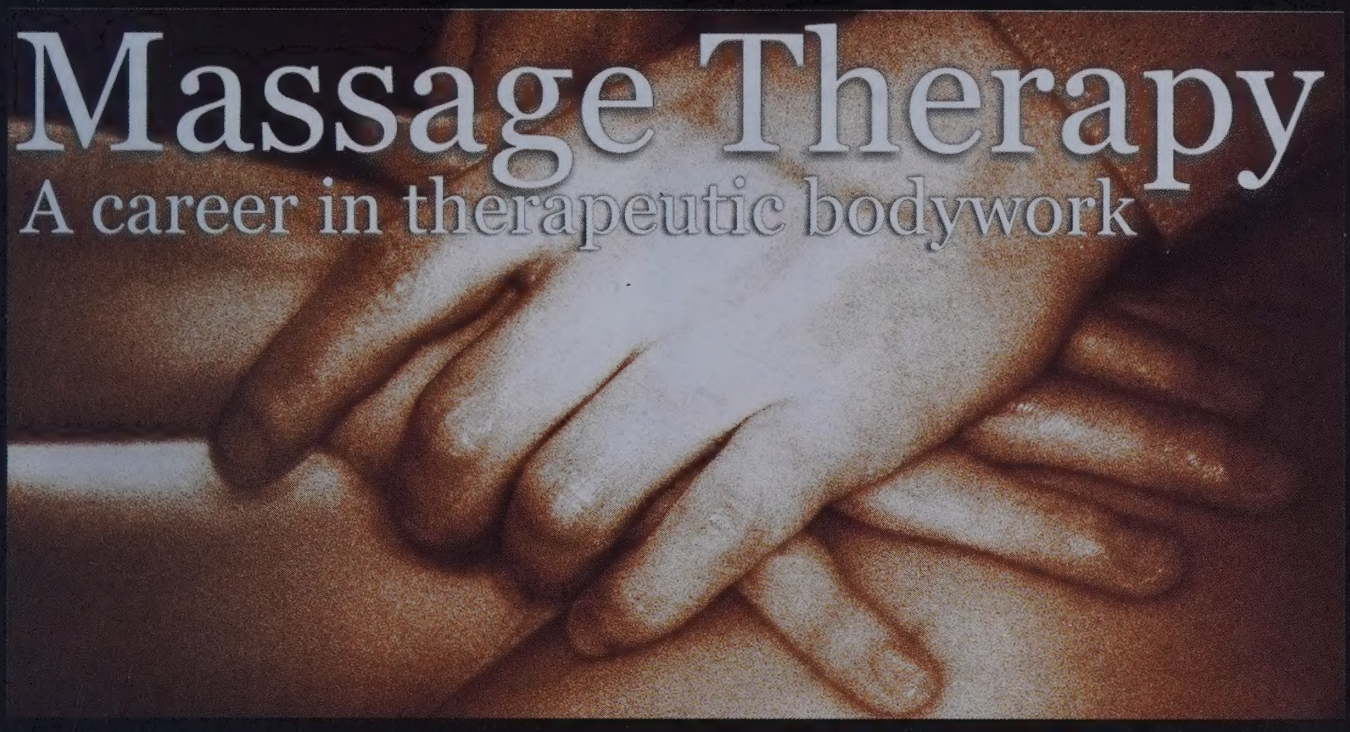

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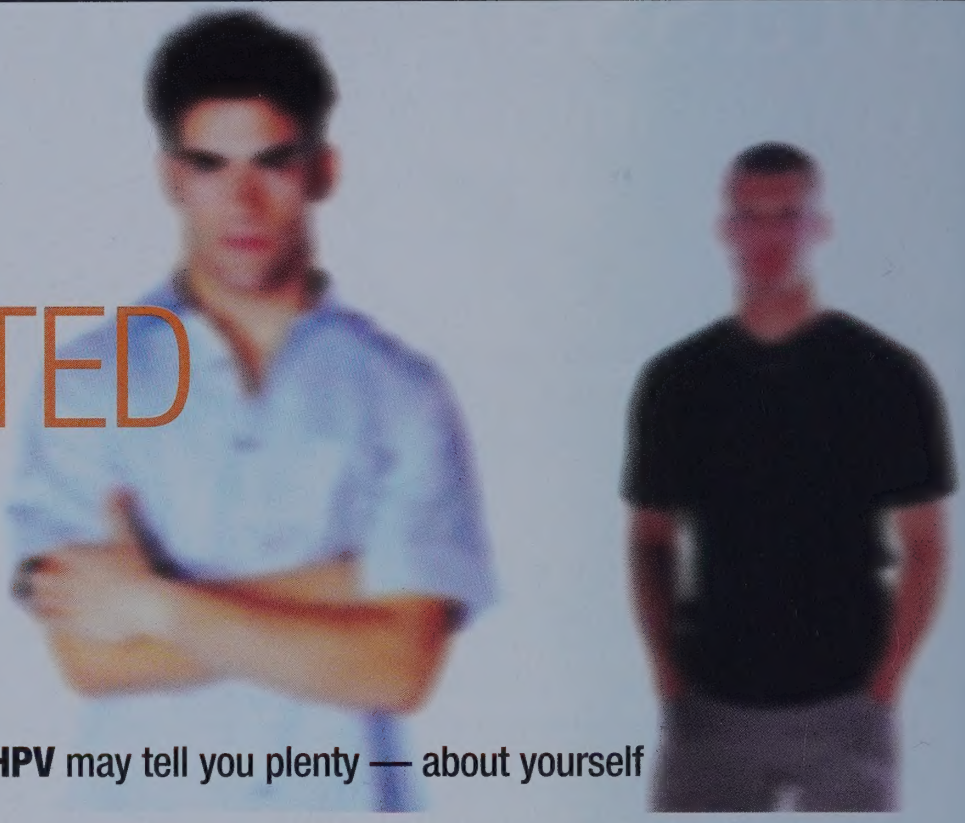

Why a simple test for **HPV** may tell you plenty — about yourself

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The sentence your doctor spoke only seconds ago still echoed in your head when it hit you: He cheated on me.

Or did he?

Human papillomavirus, or HPV, is not only one of the most-common sexually transmitted diseases but also almost impossible to prevent. Roughly 65 percent of HIV-negative men and 95 percent of HIV-negative gay men carry HPV.

And, important to this story, it can remain asymptomatic after exposure. That means either man in the relationship (or both) could've contracted HPV before any sexual intimacy took place between the two of them. Most often, as in this case, people don't even know they have it until it's discovered during a routine exam at their doctor's office.

So if it's often undetectable, is there any reason someone should care whether they carry HPV? Without a doubt, yes.

Just ask any woman. Prior to the introduction of pap smears, the incidence of cervical cancer was 40-50 per 100,000 women. But after regularly screening began, that number dropped to eight per 100,000.

As for men, sufficient data exists linking infection with the development of anal cancer. The incidence of anal cancer in men who have sex with men is at the same rate as cervical cancer in women prior to the introduction of routine pap smears.

So what women have known for years is equally important for gay men to realize: A regular pap-smear test is a must. HIV-positive men should make it a part of their annual physical, and HIV-negative men should get tested every one to three years, depending on your doctor's recommendation.

But the onset of symptoms of HPV — such as a hard spot or lump outside or just inside the anus or itching, bleeding, pain or pressure from the anus — also should lead someone to get tested, as earlier detection makes treatment easier.

Guidelines for screening are still evolving, but current procedures are relatively simple: The pap smear is performed by inserting a Q-Tip-like swab about one inch into the anus to obtain cells for lab evaluation. During the exam, a doctor likely will apply vinegar to a patient's anus, as tissue infected with HPV turns white, which helps in locating lesions.

The most-common treatment a doctor employs for warts around and outside a patient's anus is application of liquid nitrogen, an acid solution or another solution called podophyllotoxin. He or she also may prescribe Aldara, a cream that stimulates the immune system at the area of application, for use at home.

For internal warts and precancerous lesions, he or she likely will use an acid solution and/or podophyllotoxin. It usually requires several treatments to resolve HPV lesions, and occasionally surgery is required.

Though HPV may sound to some like scary stuff, it shouldn't be, and worrying won't prevent someone from contracting it. For the most part, only total abstinence will.

The chances of contracting HPV may be diminished if condoms are used from the point of initial physical activity. But since HPV can be harbored on the penis, scrotum and perineum, despite the absence of warts, it can be transmitted by almost any contact during sex.

The good news is that just because a person tests positive doesn't mean they will develop warts or anal cancer. Frequently the immune system will take care of the virus.

So if you've found the love of your life but also found something below the waistline that's given you cause for concern, don't jump to any conclusions before you know the facts. Get tested and get informed. ■

Dr. T. Douglas Gurley is an Internal Medicine physician focusing on gay men's healthcare. He can be reached at 404-888-0228.

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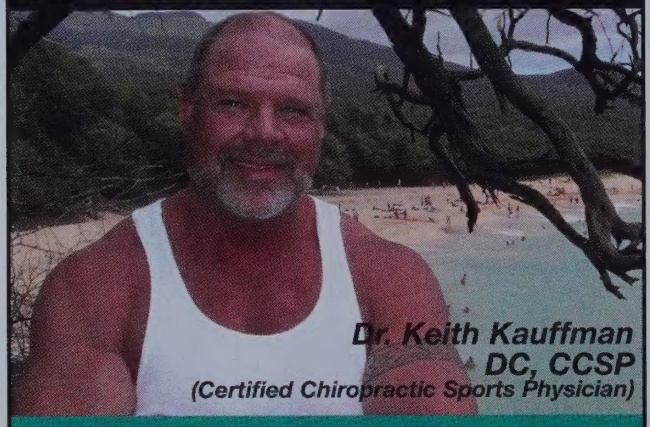

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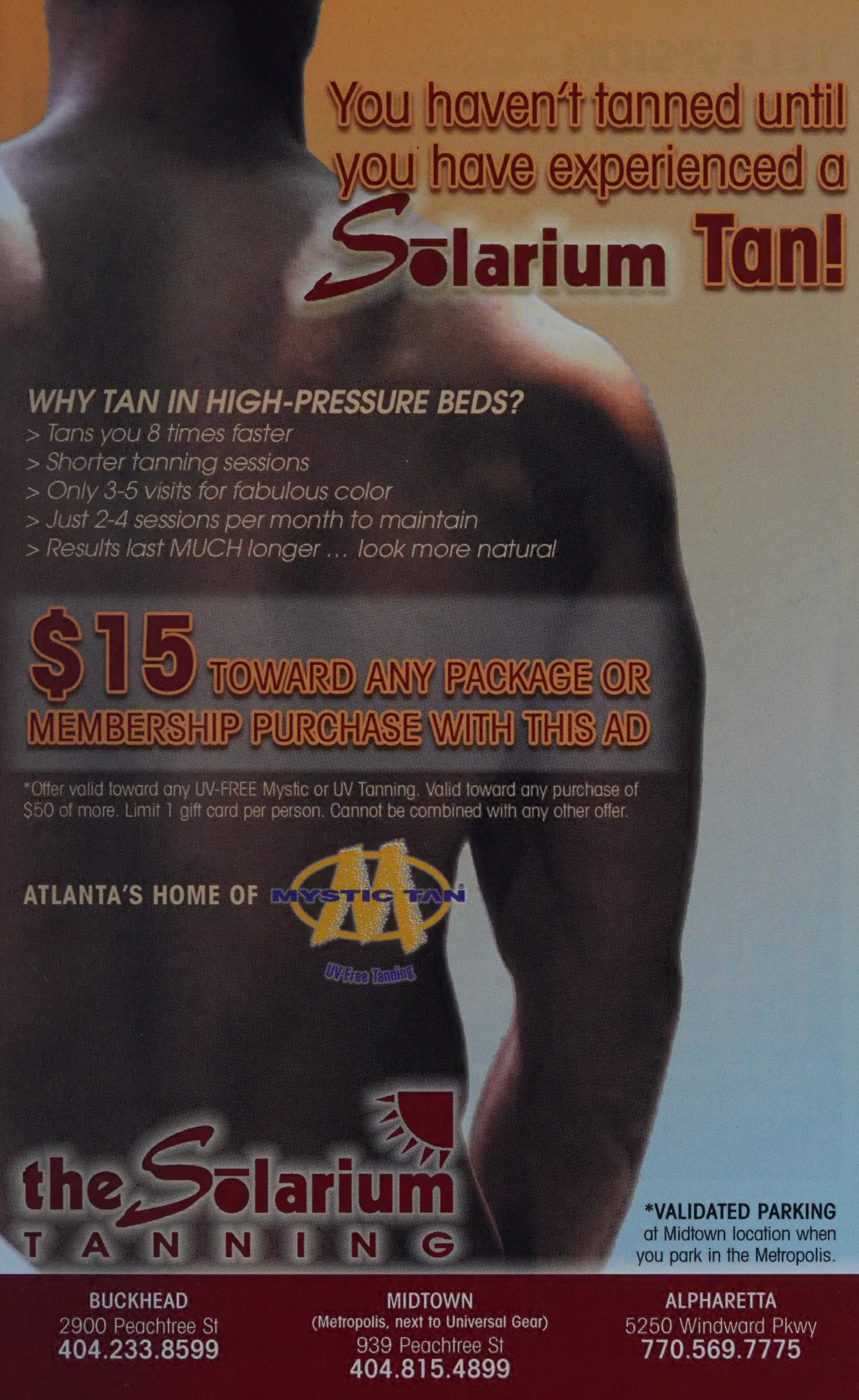
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AFTERNOON DELIGHTS

A lesbian farewell for **'All My Children,'** plus 'Boy Meets Boy' alum shows up on **'Days'**

Eden Riegel from "All My Children"

HAVING A DAY JOB MEANS MISSING ALL the great entertainment aired on television each weekday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Although this might not be the worst thing about working, missing shows like "Oprah" and "Ellen," "All My Children" and "Days of Our Lives" can get downright depressing.

Thank goodness for TiVo, SOAPnet and the Daytime Emmy Awards, which is scheduled to air on May 20.

Among the nominees this year are Ellen DeGeneres's show and Eden Riegel, the actor who portrayed a lesbian character on "All My Children" and recently left the show.

"The Ellen DeGeneres Show," the popular daytime program that airs on NBC, might not beat "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in the ratings, but, with 11 nods, it's tied with ABC's "The View" for the most nominations for any talk show as part of the 32nd annual Daytime Emmy Awards.

Last year, the freshman season of "Ellen" won for best talk show. This year, it's nominated again, along with "The View" and ABC's "Live with Regis & Kelly," NBC's "Dr. Phil," and SOAPnet's "Soap Talk." The stars of each show also are nominated for best talk-show hosts.

Leading the pack with the most nominations overall (17) is ABC's gay-inclusive soap opera "All My Children," which was nominated for best drama series. There was one notable snub, which has almost become a tradition.

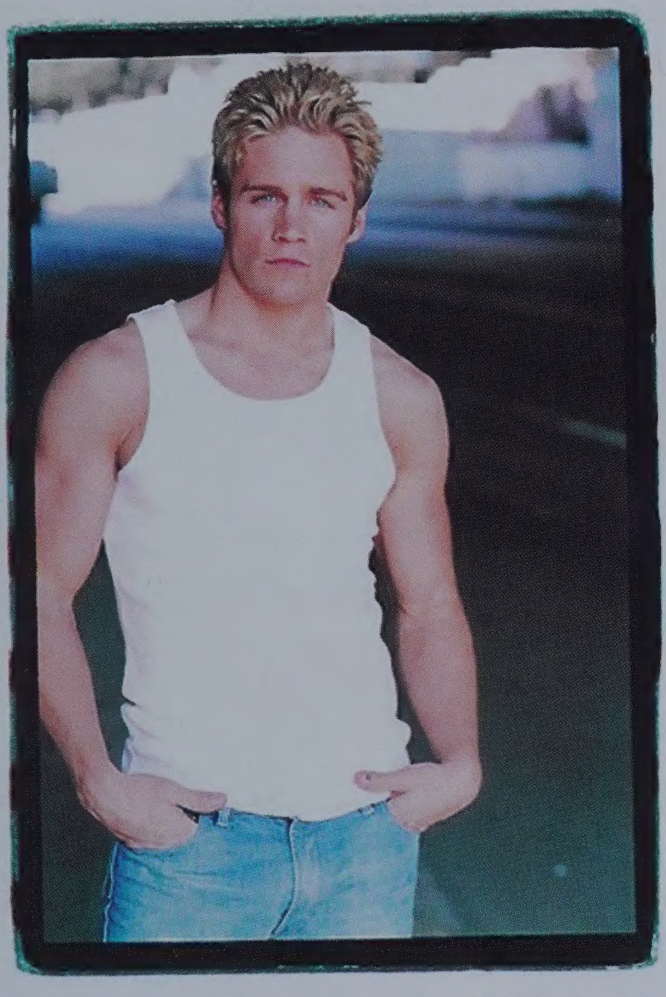
Susan Lucci, who plays longtime diva Erica Kane, didn't get a nod even though eight actresses were nominated for best lead actress. Lucci had a notorious 18-year losing streak before winning in 1999. And she hasn't won since.

Erica Kane's lesbian daughter, Bianca, fared better. Eden Riegel, 25, who portrays Bianca, was nominated for best younger actress in a drama series. Though she has been nominated three times before, this might very well be her last shot to win for this role because she no longer appears on the show.

On the Feb. 24 episode, Bianca, her best friend, Maggie (Elizabeth Hendrickson), and her baby, Miranda, left on a plane for Paris. Riegel joined the show in July 2000 and her character came out soon after that. She apparently left the show because she wanted to focus on other career opportunities. Luckily for her that Bianca was written out of the storyline, rather than killed off or recast.

Though not the first gay character on daytime television, Riegel made headlines in April 2003 when she and co-star Olga Sosnovska engaged in the first same-sex kiss in daytime television history. In 2004, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation awarded Riegel its first Out Image Award for her work on "All My Children."

IN ADDITION TO ELLEN'S SHOW and "All My Children," "Postcards From Buster" a children's show on PBS, was nominated for two Daytime Emmys — for best children's program and best writing for a children's program. The show recently became entangled in controversy when an official in the Bush administration objected to an episode that featured a family in Vermont that is headed by lesbian moms. (For those who missed the episode, the Family Pride Coalition is streaming it on the organization's Web site, buster.familypride.org.)



Dan Wells from "Days of Our Lives"

Not nominated for an award yet, however, is new "Days of Our Lives" actor Dan Wells. Gay TV fans might remember Wells as the hunky, straight actor who appeared on Bravo's gay dating show "Boy Meets Boy."

Wells' first big acting gig on "Days" has a gay — well, more transgender — twist. On the hit NBC show, Wells is replacing actress Alison Sweeney, who portrays Sami Brady, while Sweeney is on maternity leave.

On the soap opera, Sami decides to exact revenge on everyone who has done her wrong. She plans to do this by going go undercover — as a man named Stan. Wells portrays Stan.

Surely he should get some sort of Emmy nod for portraying a woman who goes undercover as a man. That's even more twisted than the mean dating show Wells was on. And, for some of us, it's certainly daytime television worth staying home to watch. ■

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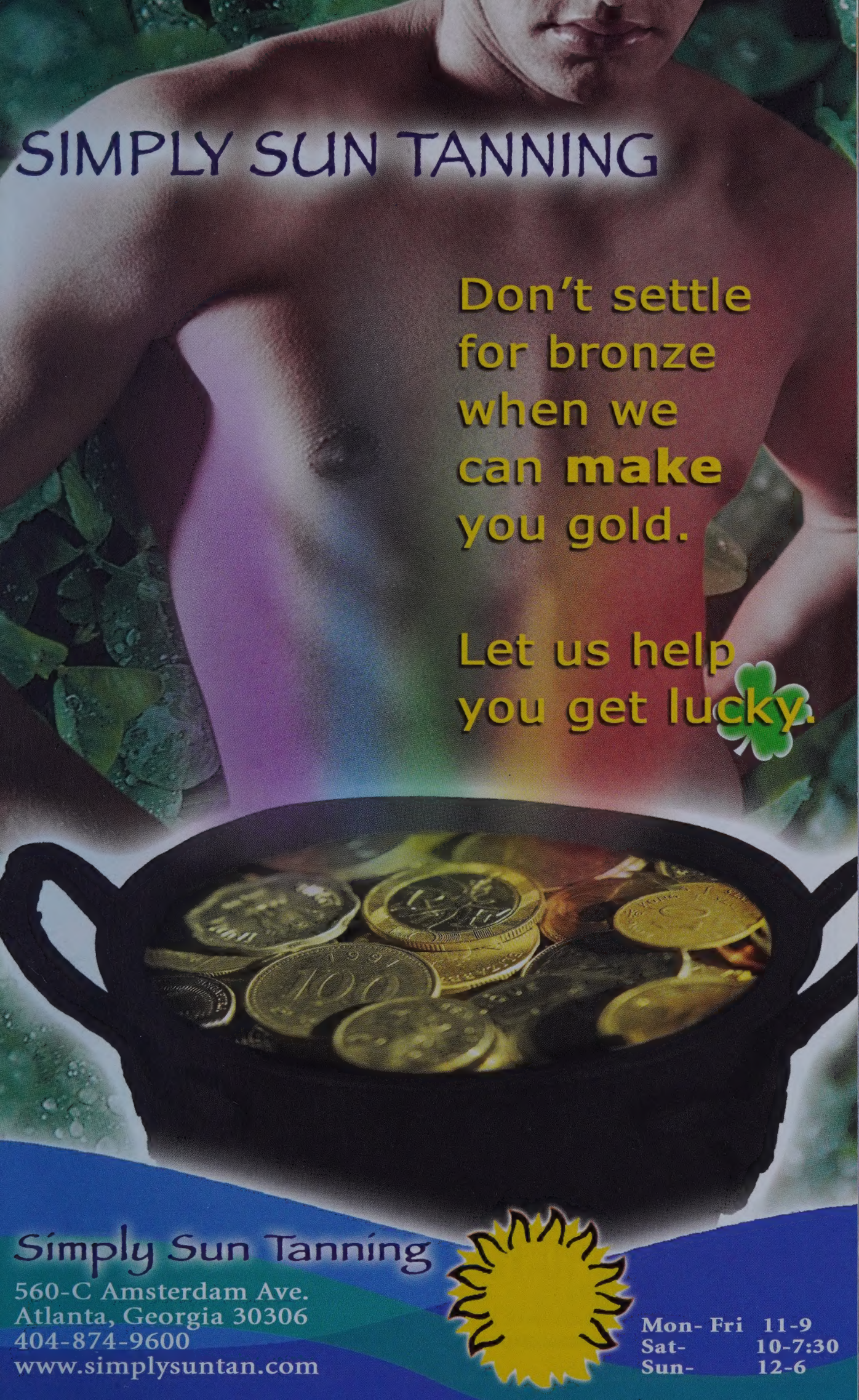

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'Red Hot' is one of three RuPaul dolls designed by Integrity Toys Inc., that captures different eras in the diva's career.

WELCOME TO THE DOLLHOUSE

Sorry, Barbie, **RuPaul's** moving in

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD, RUPAUL IS BACK.

After a five-year hiatus, the 44-year-old gay icon is making a comeback, first with a new album, and now with a quirky addition to the toy box: the official RuPaul doll.

The rebirth of one of the world's most well known drag queens went unnoticed last summer when he released "RuPaul Red Hot," his latest CD. The album, distributed by his own record label, RuCo Inc., didn't generate the buzz the singer, actor, makeup model, and dancer had hoped. Though "Looking Good, Feeling Gorgeous," the first single from the new album, is now the theme song on NBC's "The Biggest

Loser," the track never surfaced on MTV.

So, RuPaul is doing it again, this time in the form of three dolls who represent different phases of the diva's evolution. Barbie, consider yourself forewarned.

"My doll will go places, and has been in places, that Barbie would never, ever think of going — that Barbie would never admit to going," RuPaul says. "Her legs are longer, too."

In the past 23 years, those legs have walked RuPaul through 18 movies and his own television talk show on VH1, in the late '90s. RuPaul recently returned to New York for a short-lived gig hosting a morning drive radio show.

DOLL DESIGNER JASON WU, 22, who co-owns Integrity Toys Inc. with its founder, Percy Newsum, grew up admiring RuPaul. He says the gay icon was the perfect candidate to launch the 10-year-old company's first celebrity doll, so they approached RuPaul.

"He's an international icon," says Wu, who is from Taiwan. "He's not a usual candidate to make a doll off of, and one of our mottos is that we always like to do things that are cutting-edge and a little bit over the top. I thought since RuPaul was making a comeback, it would be perfect."

The RuPaul dolls are scheduled to be released worldwide in mid-June. They will be available in places such as Toys "R" Us, Tower Records, and various gay and lesbian specialty stores nationwide.

Wu says he hopes children learn valuable lessons from the RuPaul dolls. "It's important for kids to be open-minded earlier on," he says.

Wu's fashion background, including his tenure at Parsons School of Design in New York, came in handy as he developed the dolls' intricate clothing patterns and makeup. Each doll depicts an era in the superstar's life.

The "Supermodel" captures RuPaul in 1992, when he exploded onto the club scene. The doll wears a satin bustier, ruffle skirt, gloves and a gold choker.

The "Red Hot" doll — RuPaul's personal favorite — features a red lace-up vinyl suit and, of course, matching boots.

The "Glamazon" sports a black corset top and jeans and is holding a mini microphone, perhaps performing his new single, "Workout."

In addition, the dolls, which each sell for $59.99, wear RuPaul's trademark makeup, including "Raspberry Sorbet" lipstick and "Passion Plum" eye shadow.

RUPAUL, WHOSE FULL NAME IS RUPAUL Andre Charles, is philosophical about his evolution, the five-year sabbatical and the extent of his appeal today.

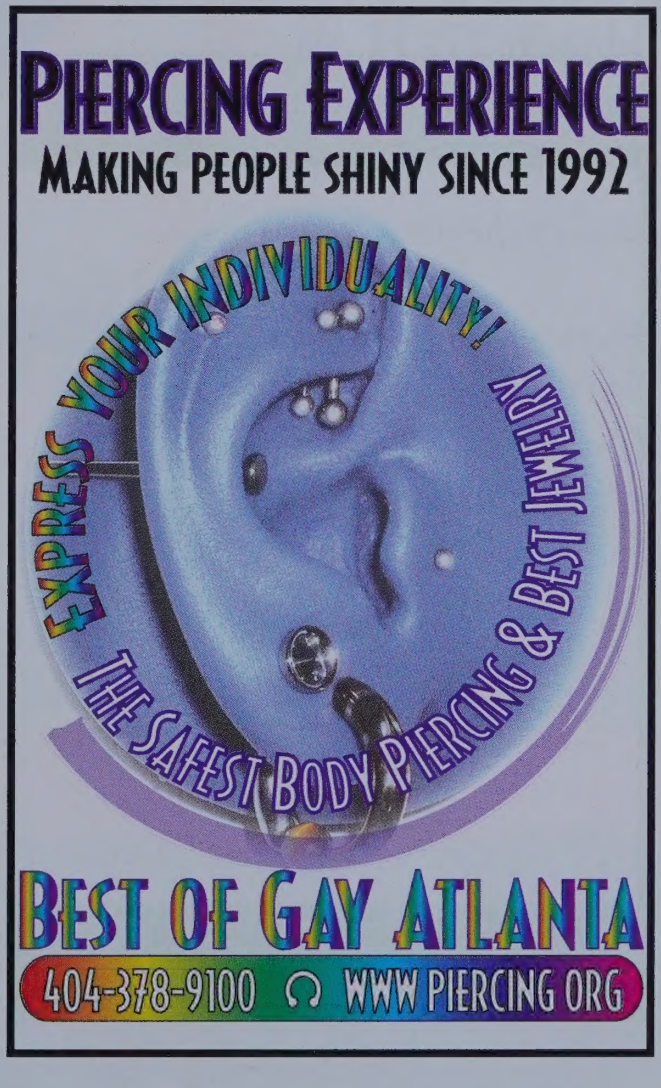
"At one point in your life," RuPaul told *David*, "you need to take a step back, reassess what's going on, and then join back in — if you so choose. But I really needed to chill for a while."

The hiatus partly came about due to what RuPaul describes as an increasingly socially conservative political climate.

"Drag and even dressing up has really been a social statement on our culture," he says. "It was never that I wanted to be a woman, or that I had the need to dress in drag. It was a reaction to the fact that my culture told me I couldn't do it. So, of course, I wanted to do it — to bust down some walls.

"Well, here I am 23 years later, and I'm an icon with a doll, still trying to let people know that these clothes we wear aren't who we really are. They are just clothes," he says. "Who we really are is on the inside, and it's eternal and it will live forever." ■

The RuPaul doll, $59.99, www.integritytoys.com, www.rupaul.com.



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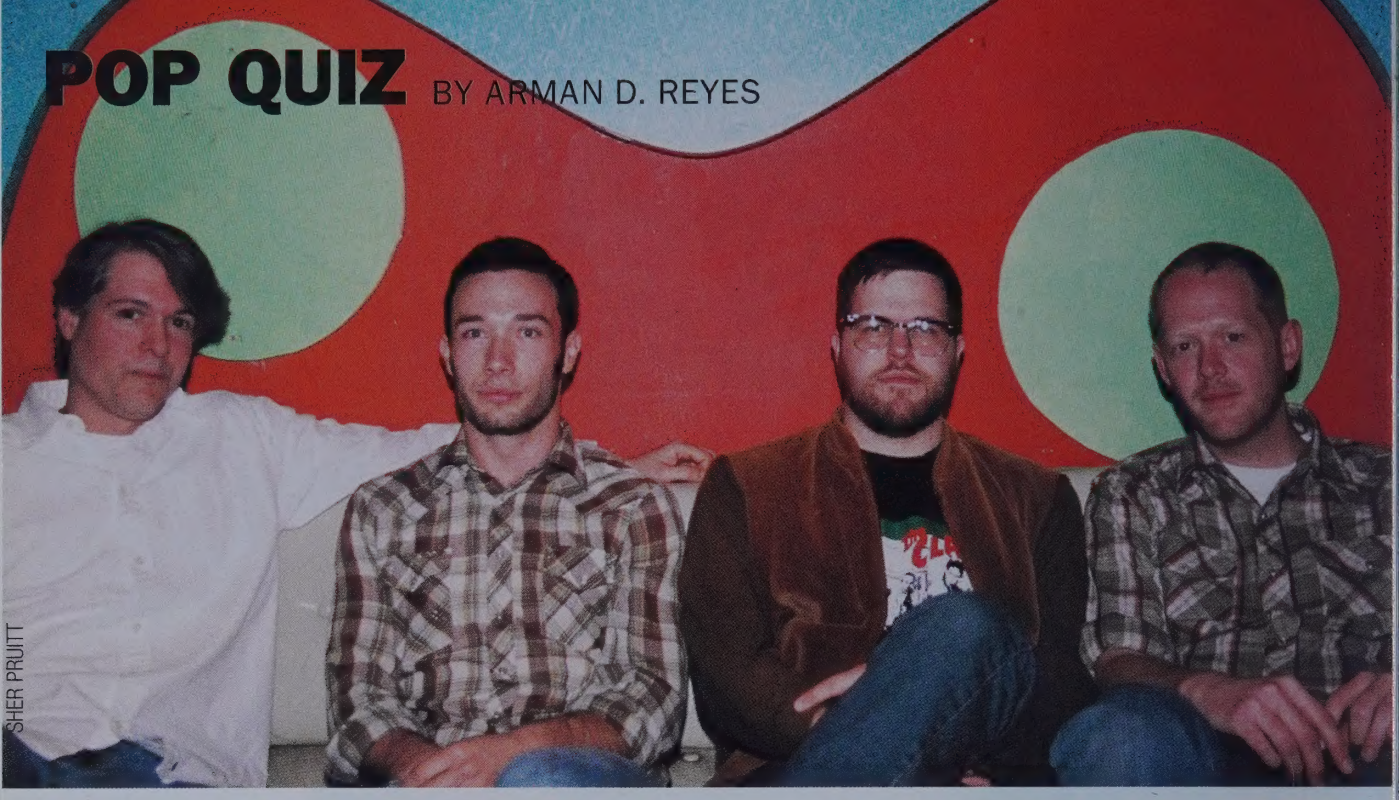

SHER PRUITT

the MORE the MARY-ER

East Atlanta's **homo hangout** gets new owners and a new attitude

MARY, MARY QUITE CONTRARY? UM, NO. The Immaculate Conception? Nope, not so much.

Mention the name "Mary's" to any Atlanta 'mo and thoughts of East Atlanta Village will immediately come to mind. Back in February, ownership of the kitschy queer watering hole on Glenwood Avenue changed hands when it was purchased by the team of Mike Dover, Matt Hunter and Bill Overall. The bar's clientele got nervous. What would happen to their carefree hangout?

Well, after catching up with Mary's three new daddies, we can report there's no need for that raised blood pressure. What you can expect is an environment that reflects the playful dichotomy of its new owners.

***David*: So what's your history in the bar/club industry?**

Matt Hunter: Um, frequent patron?

Mike Dover: I like them.

Bill Overall: I've been DJing for a while and I've bartended at parties and events.

What prompted you guys to buy Mary's?

Bill: While I was DJing here, the former owners and I had this running joke where they would tell me if I wanted to ever buy the place to let them know. Then in November of 2004, they were so ready to sell this place and I just said, "Let's talk money."

What sort of plans do you boys have for Mary's? Let's start with renovations.

Mike: We've already started. Look at our "Liberace" bathroom! [Sure enough, the bathroom is now decorated with Liberace memorabilia.]

Matt: We're going to add a chandelier in there too. We've also started to make plans to add a second staircase here in the back so that way if you go upstairs you can do this whole circular thing and come back down a different way. Then, there's more obvious stuff like a paint job here and there, put in the back bar, that sort of thing.

What about with your nightly formats?

Matt: This place has been voted the "Best Karaoke" in the city (*Creative Loafing*, 2001 and 2004) so we're definitely going to keep that going. Our karaoke nights are on Tuesday and Saturday.

Bill: Monday nights are what we like to call our "Jumpstart" night. The jukebox is free to play all night. Wednesdays is kind of a video request night. Last week, we did old musicals

MARY'S NEW OWNERS

BILL OVERALL, 35
SIGN: LEO / **VICE:** SCOTCH

MIKE DOVER, 25
SIGN: SCORPIO / **VICE:** WHISKEY

MATT HUNTER, "HALFWAY THROUGH"
SIGN: AQUARIUS / **VICE:** BEER

LEFT: The new Mary's men: Matt Hunter, left, Mike Dover, bar manager Ben Cheaves and Bill Overall

and that went over really well.

Mike: Thursdays are a revolving event night where we have quite a mixed crowd. The first Thursday of every month is our "Rock & Soul Circus" where we invite everyone to dress up, you know like their favorite rock star. It can get pretty crazy in here.

In the short period of time you three have owned Mary's, what has the feedback been like?

Matt: They were really apprehensive at first, but they've already come around.

Mike: Yeah, so far, everyone has loved what we've been doing with no real complaints. Mary's was voted "Best Neighborhood Bar" (*Southern Voice*, 2003) and it's not like we're going to do anything to stray away from that.

A few years ago, it seems East Atlanta had this huge buzz about it, but more recently it's sort of leveled off. Why do you guys think that is?

Bill: I think East Atlanta has gotten a bit mainstream, you know? After something has been hip and trendy for a while, it just becomes the norm for the most part. That and 9/11 changed the neighborhood a lot. A lot of what people were planning to do around here just came to a complete stop.

Matt: I think that there's going to be a resurgence in East Atlanta, especially with all those businesses like Target and Best Buy opening up just down the street. The owners of MJQ just bought a space down here and there's another bar opening up too. Personally, I'd like to see another gay bar or club down here.

So what would you say to sell the people who haven't been here in a while on coming back?

Matt: Mary's has always been a fun place. There's the gay boys and lesbians and a lot of gay-friendly people that come in here. It's a great mixed bag. I think when people come in here after not having been for a while, they'll see that there's a new energy to the place.

Mike: We're having fun. All three of us met here, so I think that's indicative of what kind of environment Mary's has.

Bill: It's definitely more of a sociable atmosphere where you can just be yourself and not feel like you have to be someone you're not.

Matt: And, we'll pimp out Mike too. ■

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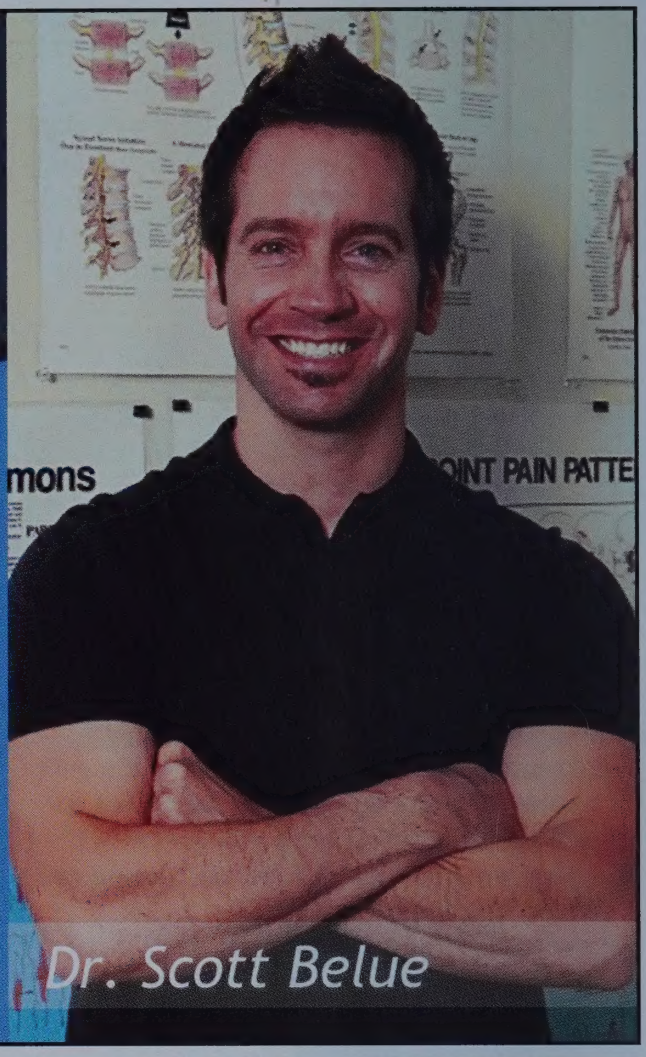

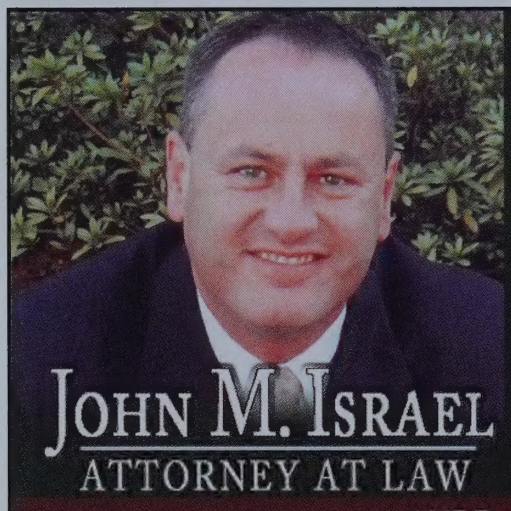

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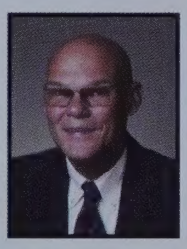

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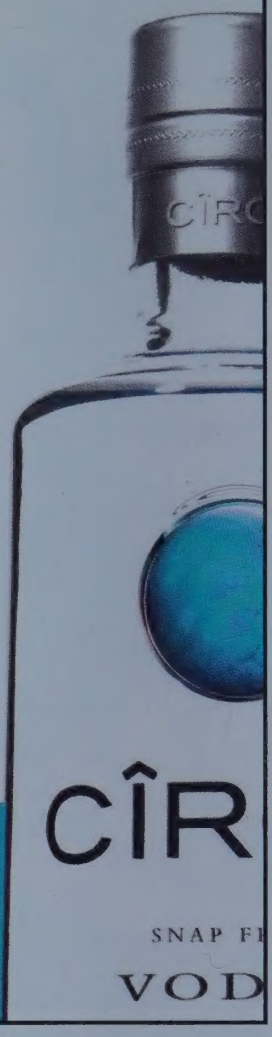

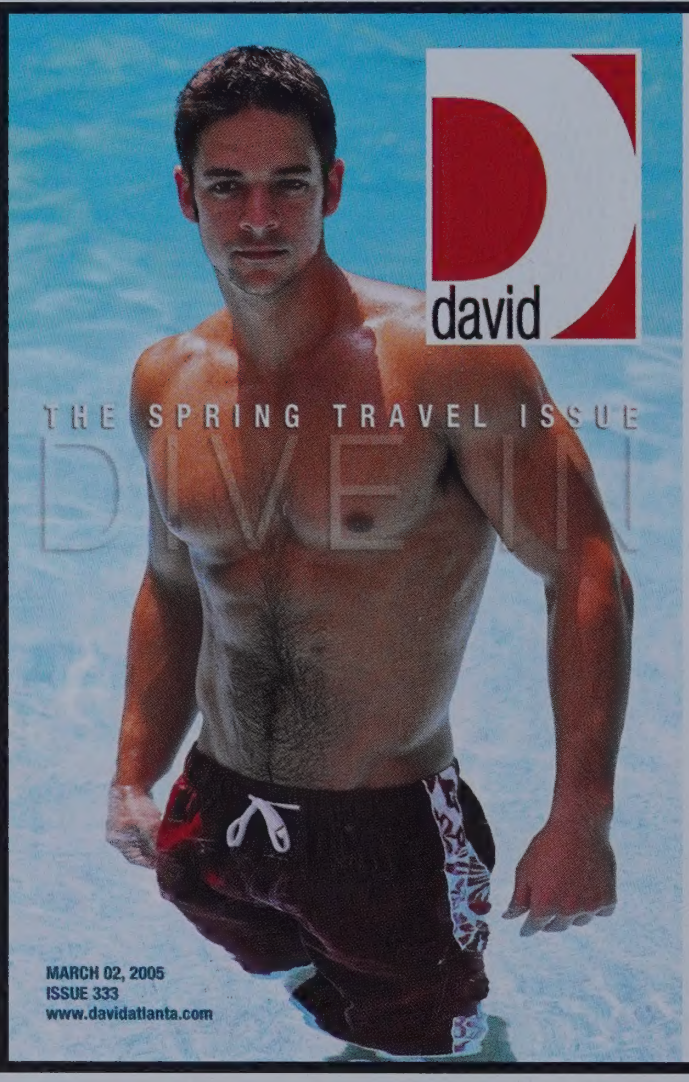

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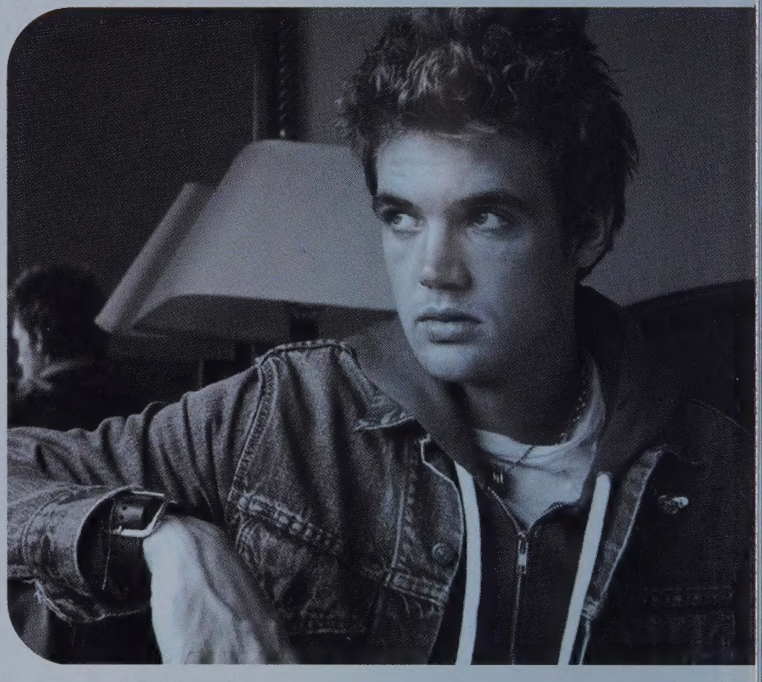
DATEBOOK 03.16 — 03.23

COMPILED BY VAN GOWER

LIVING SINGLE

There are apparently some sympathetic souls at 7 Stages Theatre. Although they're currently featuring the regional debut run of David Mamet's gay-themed play **"Boston Marriage,"** 7 Stages and the play's director Joe Gfaller know there are lots of us out here for whom marriage is the farthest thing from our minds — simply because we're desperate and dateless. So hooray for the show's **Singles Night** on March 18. For the cost of a ticket, you can enjoy a pre-show reception with cocktails, appetizers and music from Q100, then a performance of the play, and cocktails afterward. Gfaller stresses that you shouldn't worry about showing up alone because this evening's just for you. *Pre-show reception 7 p.m., play at 8 p.m. 7 Stages Theatre, 1105 Euclid Ave. $20, $15 students and Q100 Insiders. 404-523-7647, www.7stages.org*

ONE HOT TOUR



You gotta love the WB. In addition to providing us with a steady parade of young, restless and obscenely beautiful WASP characters, every episode of every show is guaranteed to feature the hottest hits by a bevy of mainstream top-40 singers and bands. What's the WB to do with such an embarrassment of riches but take the show on the road? Building off of the successes of its teen drama "One Tree Hill" and the companion soundtrack CD, the network currently has the **"One Tree Hill Tour"** winding across the country featuring young and beautiful acts The Wreckers (Michelle Branch and Jessica Harp), Tyler Hilton (pictured), and Bethany Joy Lenz. *March 20. 7:30 p.m. Variety Playhouse, 1099 Euclid Ave. $22.50. 404 524-7354, www.variety-playhouse.com, www.ticketmaster.com*

PLAY BALL!

The **Hotlanta Softball Leauge** holds Opening Day festivities with opening ceremony and first pitch. Special guests include: Atlanta Deputy Chief Operating Officer Luz Borrero representing Mayor Shirley Franklin, members of the Atlanta Police Department, Georgia Equality executive director Chuck Bowen and more. Music from DJ Liz Ellis. First pitch at noon. *March 20. Metro Atlanta Softball Complex, Field 4, 7301 Campbellton Road. 404-875-9881, www.hotlantasoftball.org*

Have an item for Datebook? E-mail editor@davidatlanta.com. Send listings at least two weeks prior to publication.

HOT DATES

03.17 **ATLANTA EXECUTIVE NETWORK:** The monthly meeting of the organization of gay business executives features keynote speaker Kevin Jennings, co-founder and executive director of the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network. Networking at 5:45 p.m., program at 6:45 p.m. *Sheraton Midtown Hotel at Colony Square, 188 14th St. Free to AEN members and students, $20 non-members, $150 tables of 10. 404-321-0079, www.aen.org*

03.19 **VOLUME PRODUCTIONS:** The party promotions team presents "Jumanji," with the wild turntable talents of Miami DJ Power Infiniti taking you back to the deep, dark jungle. *Doors open 10 p.m. Masquerade, 695 North Ave. 404-577-8178, www.masqueradeatlanta.com*

03.19 **DJ DON BISHOP:** Atlanta favorite DJ Don Bishop takes another break from his "retirement" to be vibe-master at Jungle. *10 p.m. Jungle, 2115 Faulkner Road. 404-844-8800, www.jungleclub.net*

03.20 **INTERPOL:** The brooding post-punk, guitar-heavy antics of indie rock's Interpol are reflected on their latest CD "Antics" and a tour that snarls into Atlanta. (P.S. – the band members are cute too.) *Doors open 7 p.m., show 8 p.m. Tabernacle, 152 Luckie St. $23. 404-249-6900, www.ticketmaster.com, www.atlantaconcerts.com/tabernacle.html, www.interpolny.com*

NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Please submit calendar entries no later than 5 p.m. on Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Send your listings to editor@davidatlanta.com

WED 03.16

ARMORY. Flux. Doors open at 9 p.m.
BLAKE'S. "American Idol" upsatirs 9 p.m. "Brain Freeze" trivia w/Ruby Redd, 11 p.m.
BUDDIES. "Ladies Night."
BURKHART'S. "Great Shamrock Revue and Giveaway" with Kitty LeClaw and Mary Edith Pitts, 11:55 p.m.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret starring Charlie Brown and cast, 11 p.m.-4 a.m.
COLOURS. Male revue with original Men of Jaguar.
ELEVEN50. "Thump" weekly House night grand opening. Music by DJ Jason Jones, $500 wardrobe raffle courtesy of Saks Fifth Avenue.
HERETIC. "Dress Code Party" DJ Rick Walsh, No cover.
JUNGLE. Free Southern line dancing lessons, 7-9 p.m.
LATIN SOL. Weekly "Flirt" lesbian night. All-girl bartenders, dancers and DJ. Doors open 8 p.m. Underground Atlanta. 678-904-4357.
LeBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz" drag show, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "I Want My MTV" video request night with Jarod, 9 p.m.
METRO. DJ Martin 10 p.m. "Wicked Wednesdays" with host Regina Simms, midnight.
MISS Q'S. Pool leagues.
MODEL T. Movie night, midnight.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Karaoke, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Dinner & a Movie
STAGE DOOR. Trivia, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. No cover before 10 p.m.
TRIPPS. Karaoke, 11 p.m.
WETBAR. "Martini & Movies," 9 p.m. Showing "Ray"

THU 03.17

ARMORY. "Naked Boys Singing," 8 p.m.
BLAKE'S. "Group Therapy Movie" Upstairs at 9 pm, Showtime at 11 pm w/Martina Diamante and guests.
BURKHART'S. Kitty LeClaw's "Meow Mix Show," 11 p.m. Free pool 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5-9:30 p.m. Miss Lauren's "Just For Fun" blackjack, 6 p.m.-2 a.m. DJ John Schultz, 8 p.m.-midnight.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Amateur and professional drag talent search, sign-up 9-10:30 p.m.
COLOURS. "Bad Boy Thursday," 8 p.m.
EAGLE. "Blackout Thursday," 10 p.m.
FELIX'S. Jackpot karaoke , 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.
HALO. Universal Gear and Frenchkiss Atlanta spring fashion show, music by DJ Brandon Sutton, 9:30 p.m.
HERETIC. "Experience Rapture" DJ Rick Walsh, 9 p.m.
HOEDOWNS. Line dance lessons, "Ladies Night"
LEBUZZ. Amateur talent contest hosted by Nicole Paige Brooks, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Rock In A Hard Place" revolving theme nights, 9 p.m.
METRO. "Oh Mary! It's St. Patrick's Day" with Kelly O'Brien, 6 p.m. "Jueves de RegGAYtón" salsa and bachata dance music with DJ Carlos Martinez, 10 p.m.
OSCARS. "Best of the Oscars" videos VJ Das Wright.
RED CHAIR. 10-week "Red Chair Idol presents The Karaoke Contest" beginning Feb. 3. Starts at 10 p.m.
STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
TRIPPS. Country night w/Ron and Mike, 9 p.m.
WETBAR. "College Night" with "WETboys," 21 & up with proper ID. Enter to win $500 Spring Break cash.
VALS. June Dunaphant at piano w/open mic, 7:30 p.m.

FRI 03.18

ARMORY. "Naked Boys Singing" cabaret room, 8 p.m.
BLAKE'S. "Bingo with Bubba & Jeffrey," 7 p.m. DJ Greg Dean spins at 9 p.m.
BUDDIES. "Twisted Sisters" hosted by Alexandria Martin and Regina Ryan with special guests.

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Are those Easter Eggs in your Bra... or are you just happy to see me!

Easter Drag Races 2004

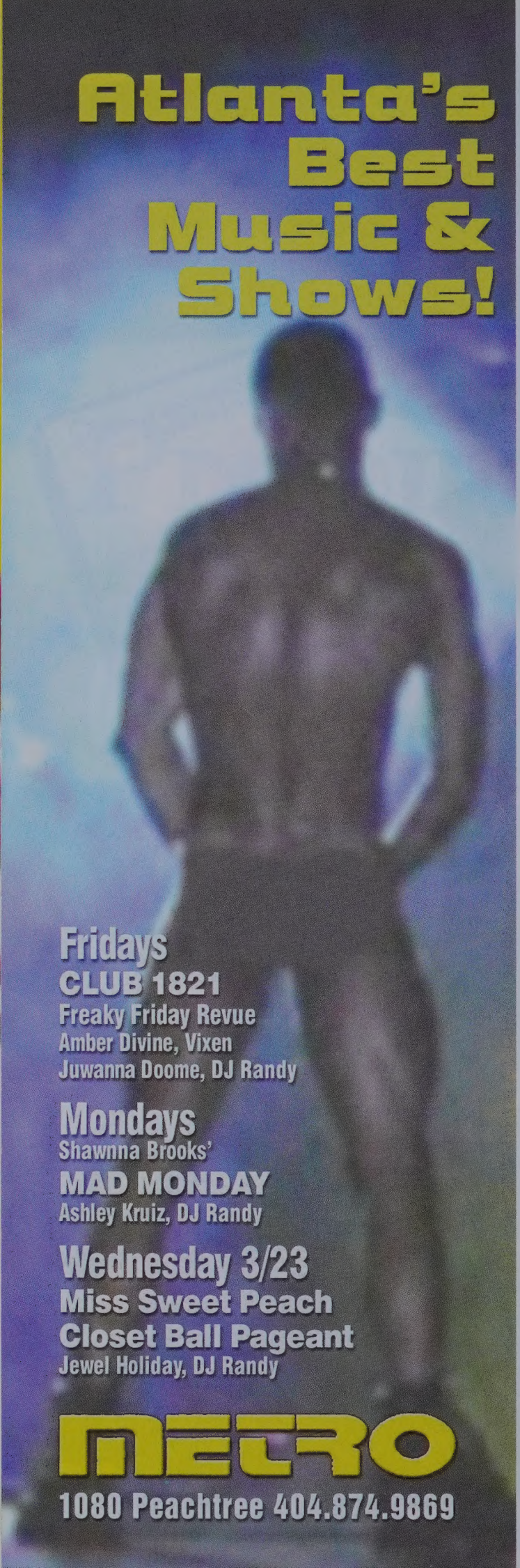
Burkhart's Menu

Entrees
Best Deal in Town
USDA Choice Strip $4.75
hopped Steak w/ brown gravy
Southern Fried Pork
Chicken Tender Plate

Salads
Grilled Chicken
Crispy Chicken
Mixed Greens

Sandwiches
Burkharts Burger
Grilled Chicken
Fried Chicklen
outhern Fried Pork

Appetizers
Chicken Wings
Chicken Tenders
Baked Potato



BULLDOGS. Old school, house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7 p.m.
CHAPARRAL. Latin night. Pouring until 4 a.m.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret starring Charlie Brown and cast, 11 p.m.-4 a.m.
COLOURS. Hip Hop and R&B night.
HERETIC. "SWEAT" DJ Rick Walsh, 9 p.m. No cover before 11 p.m.
JUNGLE. Salsa dance class, $5, 7-10 p.m. "Inferno" disco with DJ Bill Berdeaux. Hot Body Contest with Paula Sinclair. Doors open at 10 p.m. No cover before 11 p.m., $5 after 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Boys' Room" with Stewart, 9 p.m.
METRO. "Club 1821" (18 and up) with DJ Randy McDaniels, 10 p.m. "Cutie Pie Contest" hosted by the Armorettes' Amber Divine, midnight.
MODEL T. Divas of Illusion, 11 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. The Court of Kings drag show and Latin night with DJ Duck.
OSCARS. "Martinis, Men & Videos" VJ Das Wright.
RED CHAIR. Tapas menu. Music videos. No cover.
STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. "2-4-1 T-Shirt Review."
VALS. Karaoke, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
WETBAR. Check out the view from the upstairs bar.

SAT 03.19

ARMORY. "Naked Boys Singing" cabaret room, 8 p.m.
BLAKES. "Let's Make a Diva Deal" 11 p.m.
BUDDIES. "Heat" starring Nicole Paige Brooks, Gigi Monroe, Sonique and guests, 11 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Dinner, 5:30-9 p.m. Miss Lauren's blackjack, 6 p.m.-2 a.m. DJ Jason Jones, 8 p.m. "Saturday Showcase Ultimate Talent Search" with Mary Edith Pitts and Kitty LeClaw, 11 p.m.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret starring Charlie Brown and cast, 11 p.m.-4 a.m.
COLOURS. Male revue with Men of Jaguar.
HERETIC. "ROMP" DJ John Miller, 9 p.m. No cover before 11 p.m.
JUNGLE. DJ Don Bishop. Doors open 10 p.m.
LEBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz" drag show hosted by Tequila Mockingbird, 11 p.m.
THE LOFT. Atlanta's newest dance club. Doors open 9 p.m. 1374 West Peachtree St., 2nd Floor.
MARY'S. "Maryoke" with CJ, 10 p.m.
MASQUERADE. "Jumanji" with Miami DJ Power Infiniti. 18 and up. Doors open 9 p.m.
METRO. "¡Caliente!" Latin dance party with DJ Martin, 10 p.m.
MODEL T. "Model Teez Girlz" drag show, 11 p.m.
OSCARS. Take a spin with Kent & Jeff.
RED CHAIR. Tapas menu. Music videos all evening. No cover.
STAGE DOOR. DJ, dancing, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-3 a.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. 2-4-1 T-Shirt review.
TRIPPS. 1st and 3rd Saturdays: Linda Michaels' "Showcase Showdown," 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.
VALS. Karaoke, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
WETbar. DJ Greg Dean, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

SUN 03.20

BLAKE'S. "Big Time!" drag revue with Shabazz, Jealousé, Myah Monroe, and guests.

BUDDIES. Free cookout 6 p.m. The Gospel Echoes with Morticia DeVille, Jimmy and Mark, 8 p.m.
BURKHART'S. The Armorettes, 9 p.m.
CHAPARRAL. Hip hop night featuring Maxine Blue. Pouring until 3 a.m.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret starring Charlie Brown and cast, 11 p.m.-3 a.m.
EAGLE. "Retro Sundays" '70s and '80s music.
HERETIC. "RELEASE" DJ Rick Walsh, 8 p.m.-midnight. No cover.
HOEDOWNS. Line dance lessons, 5-6 p.m.
MARY'S. "Desperate Housewives" w/William, 9 p.m.
MODEL T. "Café Zone 3" jazz show, 10 p.m.
STAGE DOOR. Piano bar. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.

MON 03.21

BLAKE'S. Princess and the Drag Race, 11 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool 4-7 p.m. Dinner 5-9:30 p.m. Miss Lauren's blackjack, 6 p.m.-2 a.m. Karaoke, 12.
COLOURS. Male revue talent night, 11:30 p.m.
EAGLE. Free pool, rock music, Mondays. Open 8 p.m.
FELIX'S. Free pool all day.
HERETIC. Free pool & darts, 7-10 p.m. Guest DJ, 9 p.m.
JUNGLE. Salsa dance class, $5, 7-10 p.m. "Stars of the Century" w/Niesha Dupree, 11 p.m. $7 cover.
LEBUZZ. "Lady LeBuzz" drag kings and drag queens show hosted by Heather Daniels, 10 p.m.
MARY'S. "Jumpstart" your weekend early.
METRO. DJ Randy McDaniels, 10 p.m. "Shawnna Brooks' Mad Monday Revue" w/Ashley Kruiz, midnight.
MIDTOWN SALOON & GRILL. Free pool.
NICKIEMOTO'S. "Dragamaki"
THE OSCARS. Service industry night, 9 p.m.
WOOFS. Texas Hold-Em game. No entry fee, weekly prizes and more.

TUE 03.22

BAZZAAR. "New (Realease)" happy hour and CD release hosted by DJ Brandon Sutton, 6 p.m.-midnight every 1st and 3rd Tuesday. 404-885-7505.
BLAKE'S. Wild Well Martinis, "American Idol" upstairs at 8 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool 4-7 p.m. Dinner 5-9:30 p.m. DJ John Schultz, 8 p.m.-midnight. Karaoke, midnight.
BUDDIES. Karaoke with Patrick.
COLOURS. Customer appreciation night.
EAGLE. Free pool, rock music. Open 8 p.m.
GILBERT'S MEDITERRANEAN CAFÉ. "Navel" male belly dancing, 10 p.m.
HERETIC. Free pool & darts, 7-10 p.m. Guest DJ, 9 p.m.
HOEDOWNS. Two-step dance lessons, 8 p.m.
LeBUZZ. "Karaoke Wheel of Misfortune" with Alexandra Martin, 10:30 p.m.
MARY'S. "Maryoke" with CJ, 10 p.m.
METRO. Latin House dancing w/DJ Martin, 10 p.m.
MISS Q's. Pool league
MODEL T. Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. "Tallulah's Trivia Tuesdays" with Tallulah Bankhead impersonator, 9 p.m.
OSCARS. "Showtune Tuesday."
RED CHAIR. "Dinner and a Movie," 7:30 p.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. No cover before 10 p.m.
VAL'S. Ladies Night.

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NIGHTLIFE MAP & DIRECTORY

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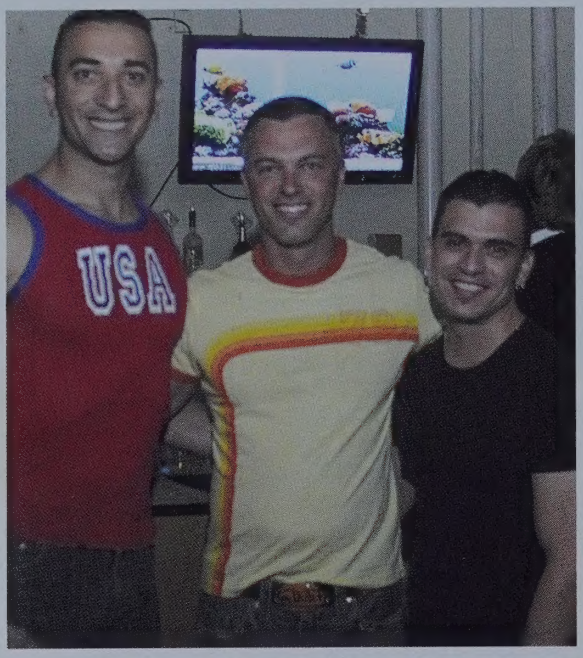
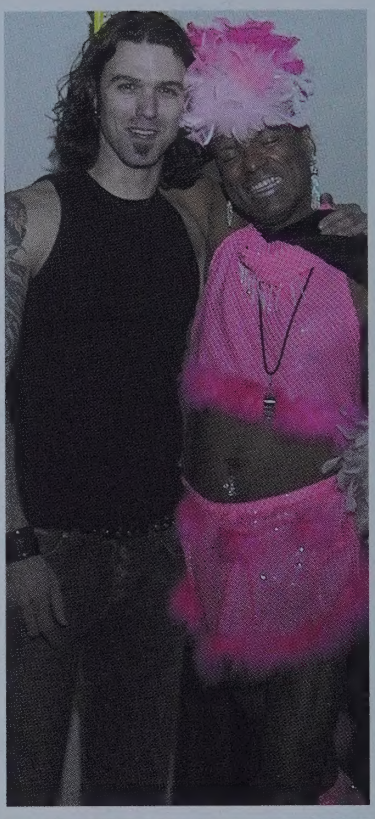
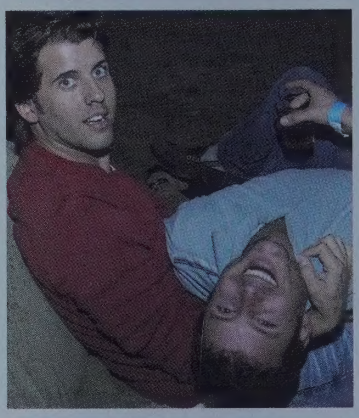
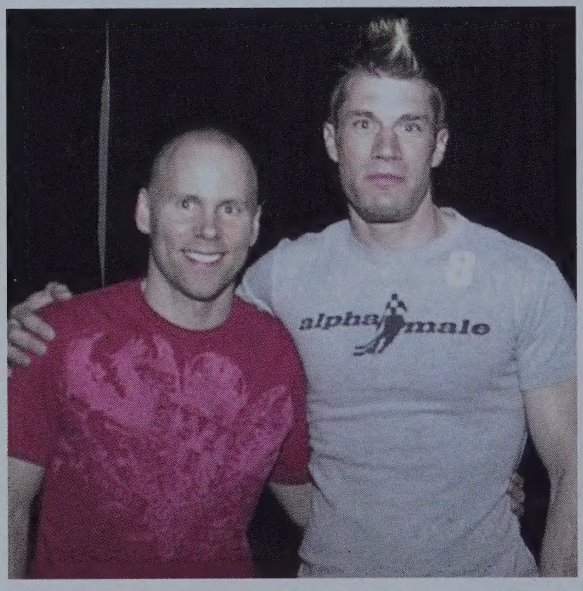
404-881-9280
2. **BLAKE'S ON THE PARK**
227 10th St.
404-892-5786
3. **BUDDIES**
2345 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
404-634-5895
4. **BULLDOGS**
893 Peachtree St.
404-872-3025
5. **BURKHART'S**
1492-F Piedmont Ave.
(Ansley Sq.) / 404-872-4403
6. **COLOURS**
1492-B Piedmont Ave.
(Ansley Sq.) / 404-724-0611
7. **COMPOUND**
1008 Brady Ave.
404-872-4621
8. **EAGLE**
308 Ponce De Leon Ave.
404-873-2453
9. **ELEVEN50**
1150-B Peachtree St.
404-874-0428
10. **FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE**
1510-G Piedmont Rd.
(Ansley Sq.) / 404-249-7899
11. **FRIENDS ON PONCE**
736 Ponce De Leon Ave.
404-817-3820
12. **HALO**
617 W. Peachtree St
404-962.7333
13. **HERETIC**
2069 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
404-325-3061
14. **HOEDOWNS**
931 Monroe Dr.
404-876-0001
15. **JUNGLE**
2115 Faulkner Rd.
404-844-8800
16. **LE BUZZ**
585 Franklin Rd, Marietta
770-424-1337
17. **THE MARK ULTRALOUNGE**
79 Poplar St.
678-904-0050
18 **MARY'S**
1287 Glenwood Ave.
404-624-4411
19. **METRO**
1080 Peachtree St.
404-874-9869
20. **MISS Q'S**
560 Amsterdam Ave.
404-875-6255
21. **MODEL-T**
699 Ponce de Leon Ave.
404-872-2209
22. **MY SISTERS' ROOM**
222 East Howard Ave.
404-370-1990
23. **NEW ORDER**
1544 Piedmont Rd (Ansley Mall)
404-874-8247
24. **OPUS ONE**
1086 Alco St.
404-634-6478
25. **THE OSCAR'S**
1510-C Piedmont Ave.
(Ansley Sq.) / 404-874-7748
26. **THE PALACE**
91 Broad St.
404-522-3000
27. **PHOENIX**
567 Ponce de Leon Ave.
404- 892-7871
28. **RED CHAIR**
550-C Amsterdam
404-870-0532
29. **SWINGING RICHARDS**
1400 Northside Dr.
404-352-0532
30. **TOWER II**
735 Ralph McGill Blvd.
404-523-1535
31. **TRAXX**
306 Luckie St.
404-681-4252
32. **TRIPPS**
1931 Piedmont Cir.
404-724-0067
33. **VALS**
3701 Lawrenceville Hwy.,
Tucker / 770-938-0567
34. **WETBAR**
960 Spring St.
404.745.9494
35. **WOOFS**
2425 Piedmont Rd.
404-869-9422

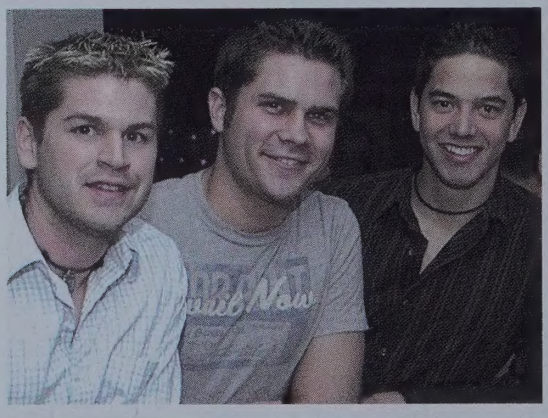
SEEN@THE LOFT

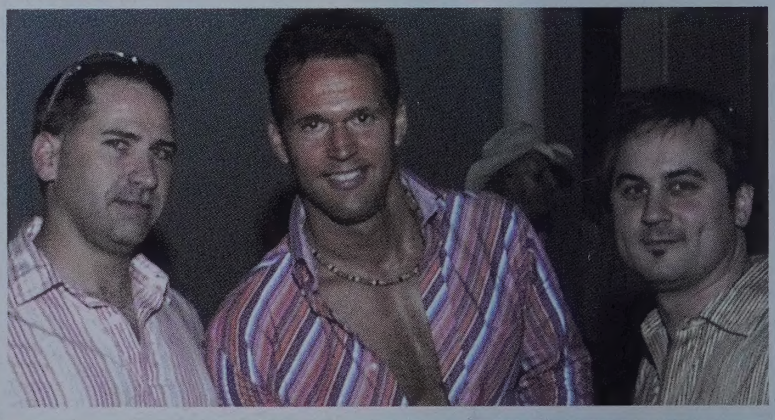


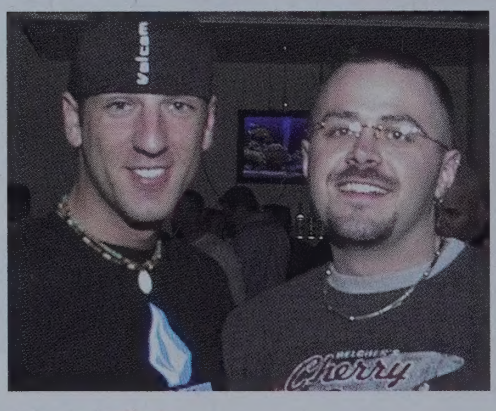


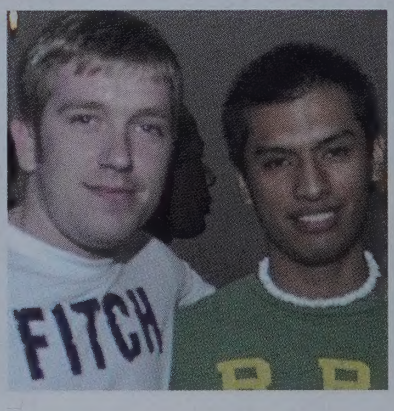










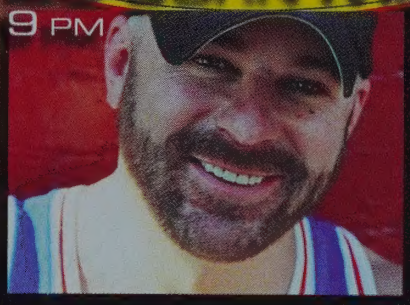


RUSS YOUNGBLOOD

WEDNESDAY
BOYS' NIGHT OUT
DRESS CODE PARTY
DJ RICK WALSH
9 PM

FRIDAY
SWEAT
DJ RICK WALSH
9 PM – NO COVER BEFORE 11 PM

SATURDAY
ROMP!
DJ JOHN MILLIER
9 PM



SUNDAY
RELEASE
DJ RICK WALSH
8 PM-MIDNIGHT – NO COVER

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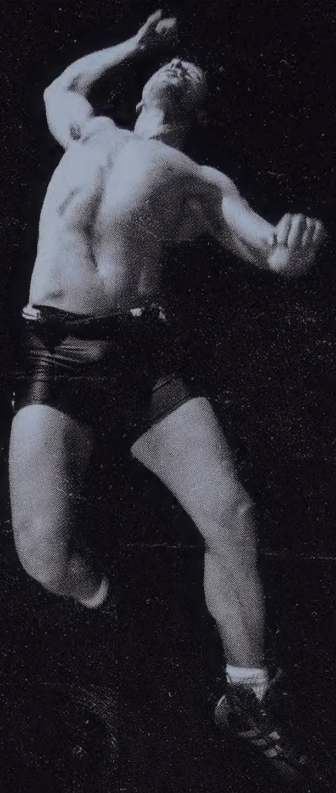

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LUCHA LIBRE RITES XXVI

Roseland Ballroom
New York City

SATURDAY MARCH 19TH 2005 ★ 10PM

LUCHA ESPECIAL

THE BLACK PARTY

CHUS & CEBALLOS

★★★★★★★★ VS ★★★★★★★★

VICTOR CALDERONE

WITH RANDY BETTIS CLOSING

LIGHTS: ROSS BERGER VS GUY SMITH

STRANGE LIVE ACTS: FETISH WRESTLERS

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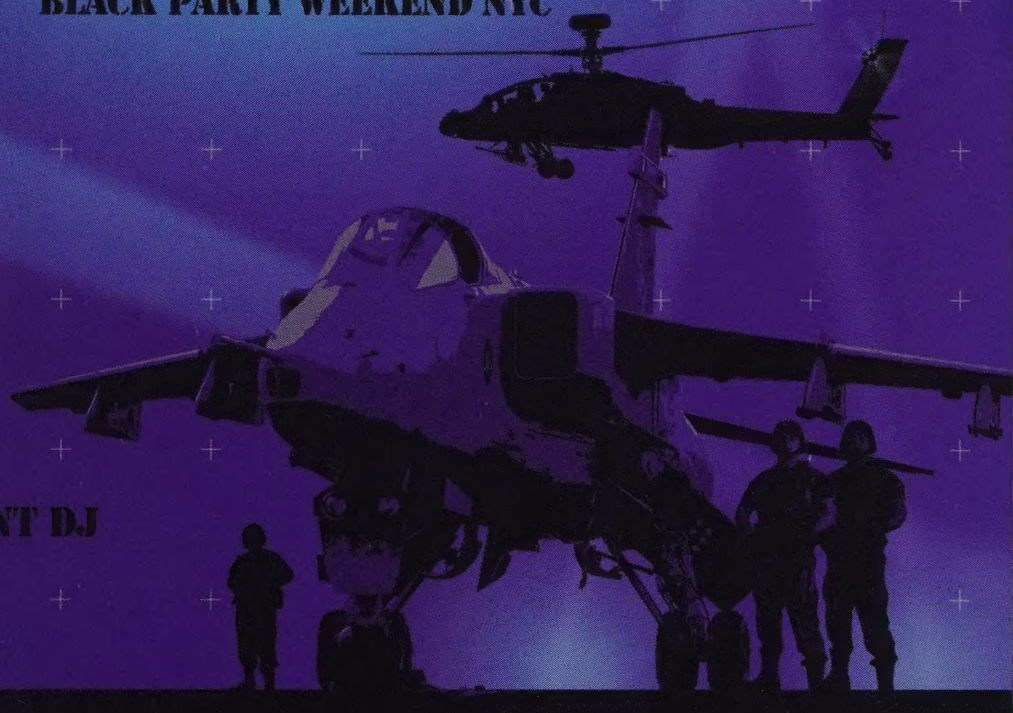
RIC SENA PRESENTS

ALEGRIA

XTREME 5

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

BLACK PARTY WEEKEND NYC



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ABEL

MUSIC IN THE PROP ROOM BY DJ ALYSON CALAGNA
LIGHTS BY STEVE REVLON
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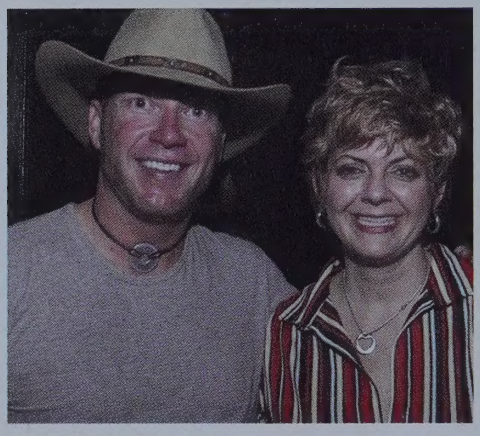

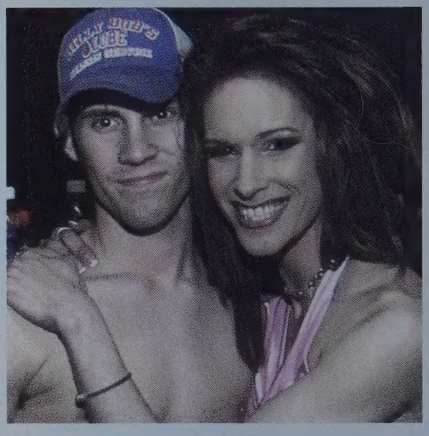

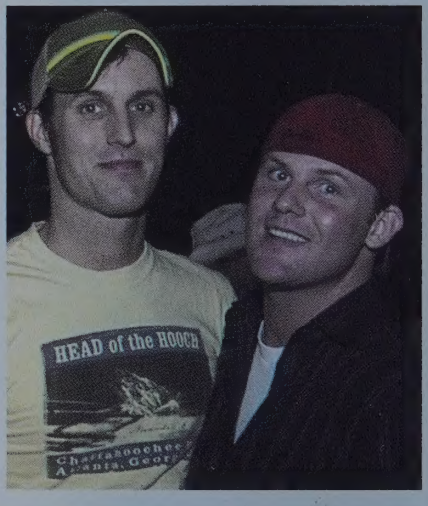

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Hard Rock Live

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Hey! Check out MarkBakerProductions.com

ID required at all events. No refunds. No exchanges. Events rain or shine. Entertainment subject to change. Venue reserves the right to cancel shows due to inclement weather and substitute both rides and/or shows based on technical availability.

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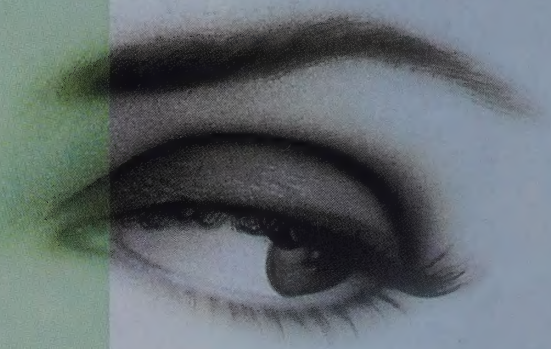

Hosted by:
Tina DeVore
and Tony DeSario

Categories:
Presentation
(Alll That Glitters)
Evening Gown
Talent

Rehearsal -
Wed. Mar. 23rd
@ 1:00 pm

$800 in
Cash & Prizes

$50 Entry Fee

DOORS OPEN AT 10
SHOW STARTS AT 11

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JUNGLE

a redcap design

sat. mar. 19th

don bishop

he's back...

DOORS OPEN AT 10
$10 MEMBERS
$20 NON-MEMBERS

coming mar. 26th
rick mitchell

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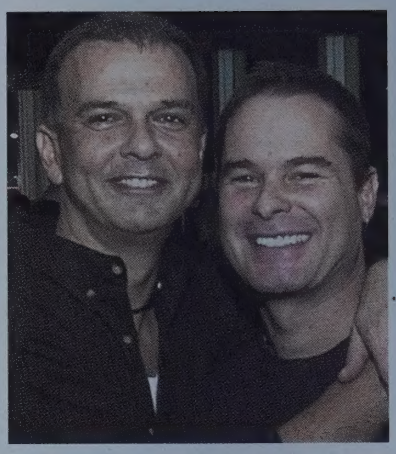
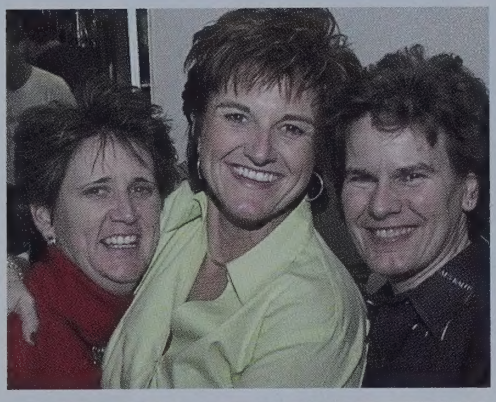
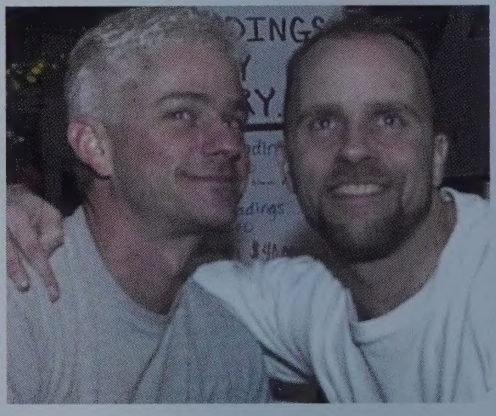
red cap design

SEEN@STAGE DOOR GRAND OPENING







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starring

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Jewel Holiday
Miss Sweet Peach 2004

Wed March 23

Categories
• Presentation (Male)
• Talent (Female)

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Regina Simms

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– elist newsletter

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MONDAY
THE ATLANTA IDOL CONTEST
11:30 *$100 Cash Prize*

WEAPONS of MASS DESTRUCTION SHOW 11:30
hosted by Maxine Blue

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with Alex & Alexia • Musci by DJ Martin

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Tina Turner
Prince
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a red cap design

KYLE'S BED&BREAKFAST

BY GREG FOX

146

HEY...ARE YOU RUNNING OUT ON ME?
HARDLY. IT'S JUST... ...IT'S AFTER 6:30.
SO?
I HAVE TO GO GET BREAKFAST STARTED FOR THE OTHER GUYS.
"BREAKFAST SERVED EVERY MORNING BETWEEN 7:00 A.M. AND 9:00 A.M." MEANS EVERY MORNING...
...EVEN ON THE MORNING AFTER THE MOST INCREDIBLE NIGHT OF MY LIFE.
YOU REALLY MEAN THAT, KYLE?
ABSOLUTELY.
SO I WAS...?
YOU WERE. AND I WAS...?
YOU WERE, TOO.
COOL.
DON'T LEAVE YET.
I HAVE TO. LANCE GETS VERY UPSET IF HIS COFFEE ISN'T POURED AT EXACTLY 7:01 A.M.
GREG FOX ©2005
LET LANCE POUR HIS OWN DAMN COFFEE.
HA! THAT'S NOT HAPPENING IN THIS LIFETIME.
BUT DON'T WORRY... I'LL BE BACK.
YOU PROMISE?
UH-HUH. I'D LIKE TO SNUGGLE WITH YOU FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER FEW HOURS. I DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP AFTER WE, UM...
NO? WHY NOT?
BECAUSE, WHEN I WAS LYING THERE... WRAPPED UP IN THOSE STRONG, WARM, HAIRY ARMS OF YOURS...
...IT FELT LIKE I WAS IN HEAVEN.
I DIDN'T WANT TO FALL ASLEEP AND MISS OUT ON ONE SECOND OF IT.
IT FELT TO ME LIKE I WAS HOLDING AN ANGEL.
AND KYLE... DON'T WORRY ABOUT "MISSING OUT" ON ANYTHING.
I'LL BE HERE TO HOLD YOU LIKE THAT EVERY NIGHT... IF YOU WANT ME TO.
SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN.
YOU STILL HAVE TWENTY MINUTES 'TIL BREAKFAST IS SERVED. YOU THINK WE COULD...?
OH, NO. THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN...
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
WELL... MAYBE....

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GUEST EMCEE

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Tuesday, March 22nd ~ $5 @ 7:30

HE DID WHAT? BY CHRISTOPHER STEVENS

STARVE A COLD?

Me against the **germs** (and the germs are winning)

WINTER HAS HAD HER WAY WITH ME, and I've been sick — sick as a dog.

That phrase has always puzzled me, because in my experience dogs have it pretty easy in this respect. I, for one, have never witnessed a dog guzzling Nyquil or blasting Afrin up his snout, or wearing three sweat-suits at once in a vain effort to quell his quaking limbs and chattering teeth, or suffering week-long coughing fits.

Whenever a dog is feeling sub-par, he just eats some grass, pukes on the carpet, and instantly feels fine. When it comes to being sick, doggie-style is the way to go.

I was laid low (shut up) by That Cold — the one that everyone seemed to get this year. It beat me up for a week (although, American-style, I stayed out of work only two days, the better to infect my co-workers) and it left me with a sinus infection that lingers to this day.

I think that thus far in my life I have not been properly grateful for my nostrils. As Joni Mitchell sang, "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone," and I sorely miss having a functioning nose. All this mouth-breathing has left my mouth all gummy, like it's full of sugar-free marshmallow Peeps.

So it's off to the doctor on Monday, but the sinus thing will probably be the least of it, as I'm going to request tests for a couple things that well-behaved boys aren't supposed to be getting these past two decades. "Have you had any unprotected sex?" he'll ask, and I'll say, "Wellllll, maybe..."

I mean, I do what I can, but the best-planned lays go oft awry, don't they?

Where contagion is concerned, there really is strength in numbers, and while I haven't been making it with whole battalions, the single spies do add up after a while. And rubbers are known to break, or even slip entirely off their assigned perch, and many bugs that aren't HIV are much more communicable. What with drug-resistant HIV cropping up in New York, and exotic breeds of chlamydia blossoming right here in Atlanta, it seems that now, more than ever, one man's meat is another man's poison, so I'm going to have stuff checked out, even if it means a scolding from my doctor.

I'm also going to bite the financial bullet and go back on my HIV meds. I'm in a typically American bind here. I have health insurance, but don't make enough money to cover the co-pays on three flavors of anti-virals each month, plus Bactrim. I've always been ambivalent about meds anyway, as the only HIV-related illnesses I've had have been from the drugs, not the bugs. But I've been off the stuff for almost two years now, and even I think it's probably about time to reduce my viral load. The human body's supposed to be something like 95 percent water, and at this point, I suspect my other five percent is bugs.

So I'm heading back to the pharmacy, even if it means living on plain rice and tea made with twice-used tea bags, and possibly defaulting on my ancient credit card debt and having to file for bankruptcy. I'm tempted to try the mail order Canadian Connection, but you really don't know what you're getting that way, and if I'm going to be ingesting toxic chemicals, I want them to be the right toxic chemicals. Or maybe I should just go outside right now, and eat some grass. ■

Christopher Stevens eats almost anything except sea urchin, and makes a delightful dinner companion, if you're paying.

MORE TO EXPECT.

MORE TO ENJOY.

david

NEED WOOD? BY WOODY MILLER

LORD of the RING

Cock ring math lessons, plus mud wrestling

HEY, WOODY!

I want to try a cock ring but I don't know what to buy or how to put it on. Worse, I'm too shy to ask the clerk at the local adult store for advice. That's where you come in. Help!

— Fruit Loop

DEAR FRUIT LOOP:

Think of cock rings as do-it-yourself Viagra. The blue pill does it by opening up blood vessels to let blood in; the black ring does it by restricting the blood flowing out.

So how do cock rings work? When you get hard, your heart pumps blood to your dick through arteries. After ejaculating the blood doesn't leave through the arteries; it leaves through the veins. Cock-rings squeeze these veins, restricting the blood flowing out, helping to make your dick harder, longer, faster.

Because veins are much closer to the surface of the skin than arteries, cock-rings don't affect the "entrance ramp" to the hard-on highway, but they're pretty good at creating roadblocks to the exit ramps.

Here's what to look for:

SIZE: Yes, it matters. You want it snug without cutting off circulation. Heed my words or your next letter to me will be how to reverse the tissue damage you caused.

MEASURING UP: Take a string and slip it behind your balls. Bring it up and around your flaccid penis (God, are those two of the ugliest words or what?). Make sure it's snug. Mark the string on both sides where it comes together. Measuring the distance between the marks gives you "package circumference." Because cock-rings are measured at the diameter you'll need to divide the length of the string by pi (3.14) to find the right-sized ring. Example: The length of your string is 6.28". Dividing it by 3.14 = 2. So you'd buy a 2" cock-ring.

PUTTIN' IT ON. Put your nuts into the ring, one testicle at a time. Once you slip the second testicle through, push your flaccid penis (oy vei, those two words again) into the ring. Then let the games begin.

STYLE. Stick to rings made of materials that'll stretch — like silicone. Solid rubber and metal cock rings are for experienced veterans only. They don't stretch or adjust, potentially causing that circulation cut-off we want to avoid. If you're too stupid to follow my directions and get erection stuck in a metal ring, drown it with lube to loosen it out. There are also rings with adjustable buckles, snaps, even Velcro.

CUT THE FUR. You may want to do a little manscaping around the scrotum and penis. Catching hair in the ring or snaps is like catching a falling knife — there'll be lots of screaming.

TIMING. Don't ever wear it for more than 20 minutes. When you first start, limit yourself to 10. Again, that damn circulation thing.

HEY WOODY!

Nightlife in this city sucks. Why hasn't anybody thought about male mud wrestling or oil wrestling? I know of a club that did it years ago with great success, but the owners squandered all the money on drugs and the place shut down. I can't help but think other gay guys would love to see some muddy or oily man on man action. Don't you think it would make some club owner rich and, more importantly, the city's nightlife more exciting?

— Down for the count

DEAR DOWN:

My rule is to publish questions that I can answer, not statements to react to. But I'm making an exception in your case because a) reading your suggestion tented my jeans and b) I'm hoping my readers will rip out this page and send it to every bar owner they know. I can tell you this: I'd be there in a fucking heartbeat. And I'd ask the wrestlers the same question every night: "Is this a private fight or can anyone get in it?" ■

Woody is the author of "Alexander The Fabulous: The Man Who Brought The World To Its Knees." He can be reached at needwood@mac.com.

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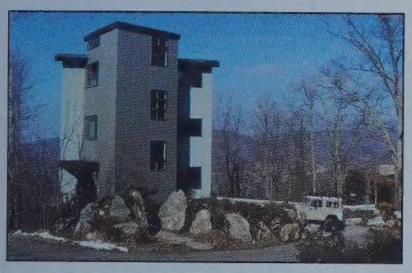

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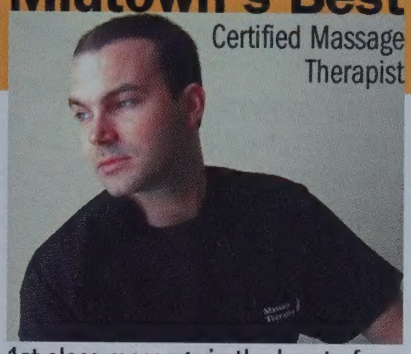

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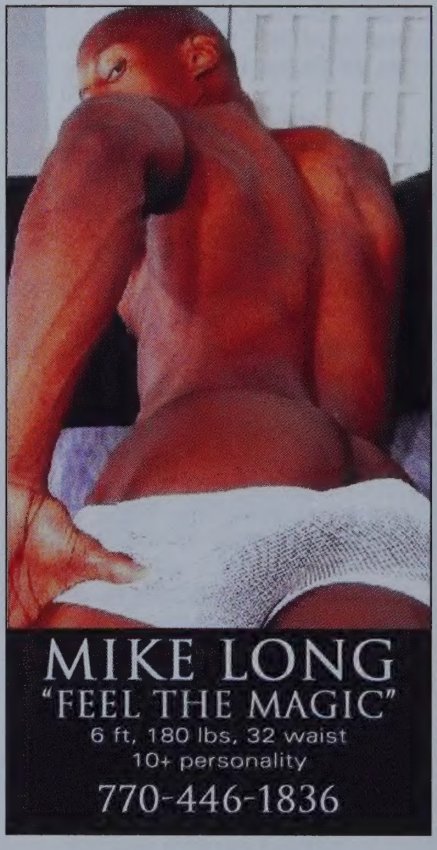

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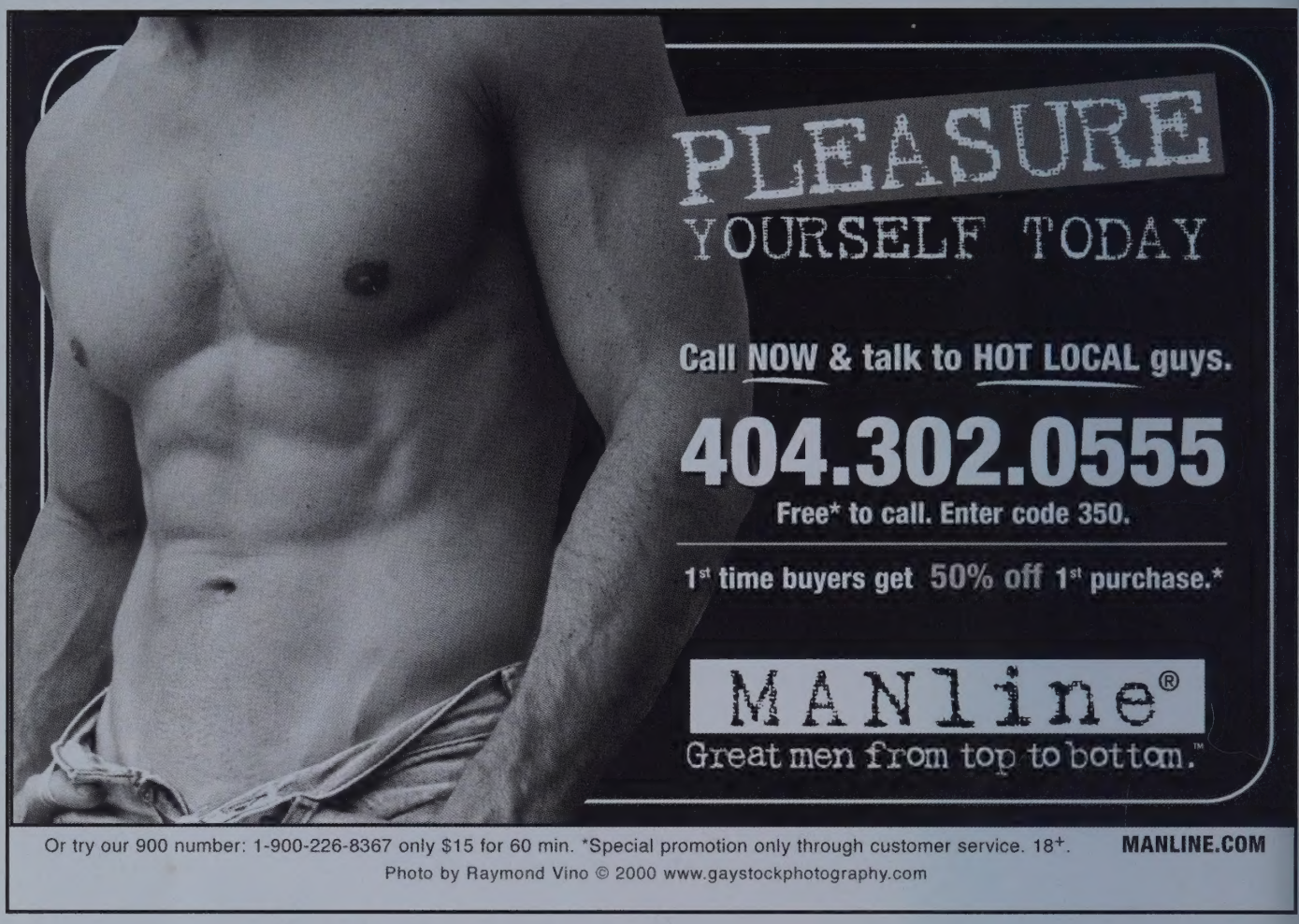
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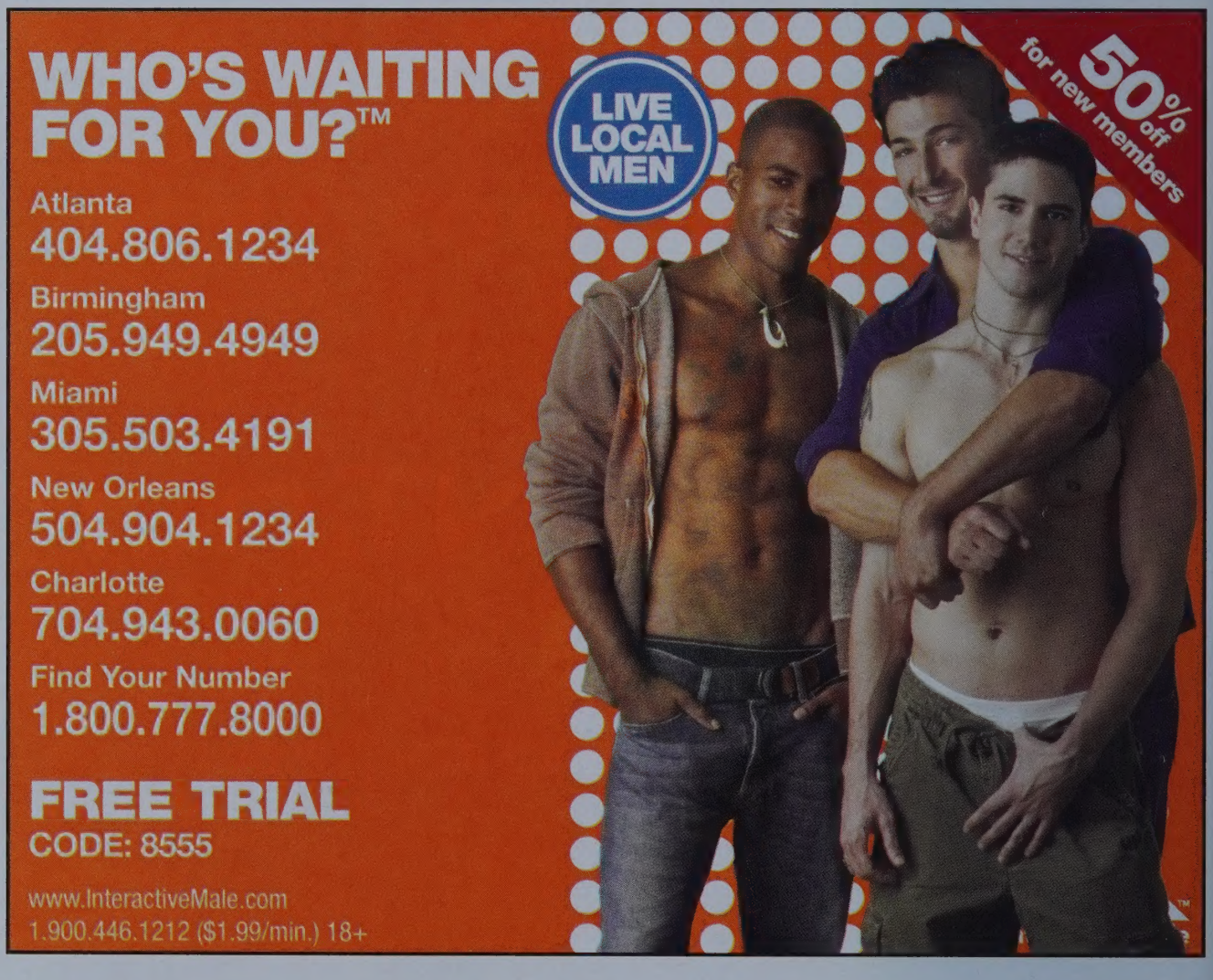

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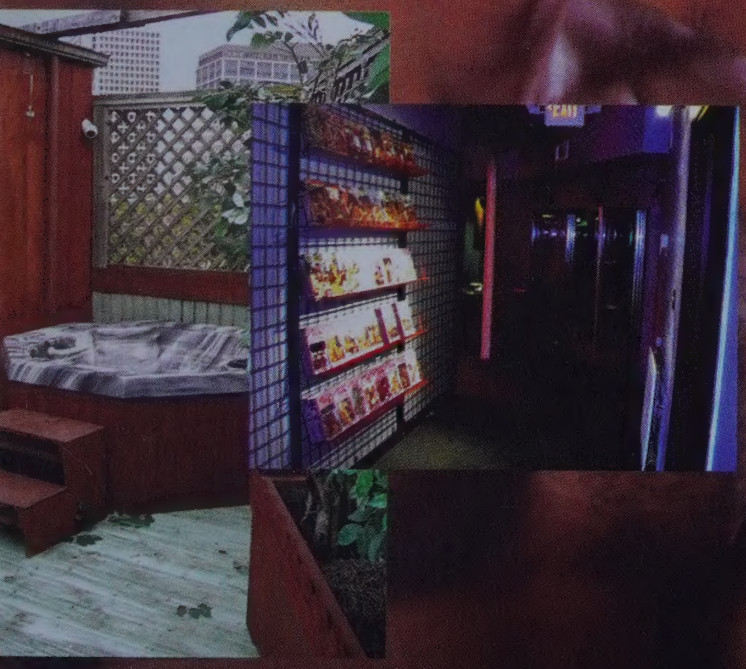

BITCHSESSION

I am tired of having to tell my mother that the Human Rights Campaign sticker on my car means I support more math education in our schools.

For all those out there who think all lesbians sleep with each other. Well, here is a fresh piece of ass that has not been tampered with and is in its early 30s.

OK, let's put an end to this. The folk etymology that "drag" comes from the sensation of actor's skirts dragging on the ground is cute, but it doesn't explain why Yiddish, Dutch, German, etc., have related words? "Drag" is just an obsolete word that means "costume" or "clothing" that survived in a special situation.

To the old guy trying to cruise my 22-year-old ass in the restroom: Newsflash — you're 80!

To the ancient queens who come to "College Night" at the bars: If you can no longer get in free because your college I.D. expired in 1982, rethink your plans.

To gay men who prefer slender, smooth, younger-looking guys: Where the hell were any of you when I was single?

Why is it so hard for an educated, attractive 25-year-old to find a decent guy? The last guy told me, "I really like you, but I am scared that you will break my heart" Aren't you supposed to take risks in life?

Try being best friends with your ex of five years and seeing him with his new boyfriend. Damn, does it suck.

What? You say it's not gay to wear boxers? Why didn't I get the memo? It used to be gay to wear boxers. But then the heteros started pulling them on.

To the slack-jawed brawny tiger: So the fact that I am college educated and wear a tie is a turn-off? Size matters. So what's got your panties in a bunch? The size of my brain or the size of my paycheck?

The reason so many homo guys are attracted to straight guys is they are masculine and comfortable with being a guy.

I hear so much complaining from black guys about how racist everyone else is. How about dealing with your own issues. Why are you always trying to nail all the really young pale boys?

You are adorable and sweet, but please work on your English. You are so painful to listen to!

What is up with porkers wearing tight fitting shirts? Disturbing!

To my boyfriend, who has been sleeping at my apartment for at least a month: When will you start paying half the rent and utilities? It's enough that I have to pay for the food most of the time!

I'm tired of stupid salesmen who can't read their customers anymore. Why do you need to waste five minutes demonstrating child safety features in a car to me and my boyfriend?

When a gay man says that he has no hang-ups about race or money, that only means he has hang-ups about looks and body type.

So you've been in serial monogamous relationships and have no friends because with each breakup, you lost your only friend. Why not table the lovers for a while, just make some friends, and get your self-esteem back?

I hate butch guys who later tell you that you are "too gay" for them. Next time I won't forget to tell you that I am gay! Damn closet-case.

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WEEKLY CALENDAR

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THURSDAY **TOTAL REQUEST LIVE** 9 PM
DJ Bill Berdeaux plays your requests

FRIDAY **BINGO** with Bubba & Jeffrey, 7 PM / Then DJ Greg Dean at 9 PM

SATURDAY **LET'S MAKE A DIVA DEAL!** 11 PM

SUNDAY **BIG TIME!!!** 9:30 PM

MONDAY **PRINCESS and the DRAG RACES** 11 PM

TUESDAY Stop by after work to enjoy your favorite cocktail and "American Idol" at 8 PM

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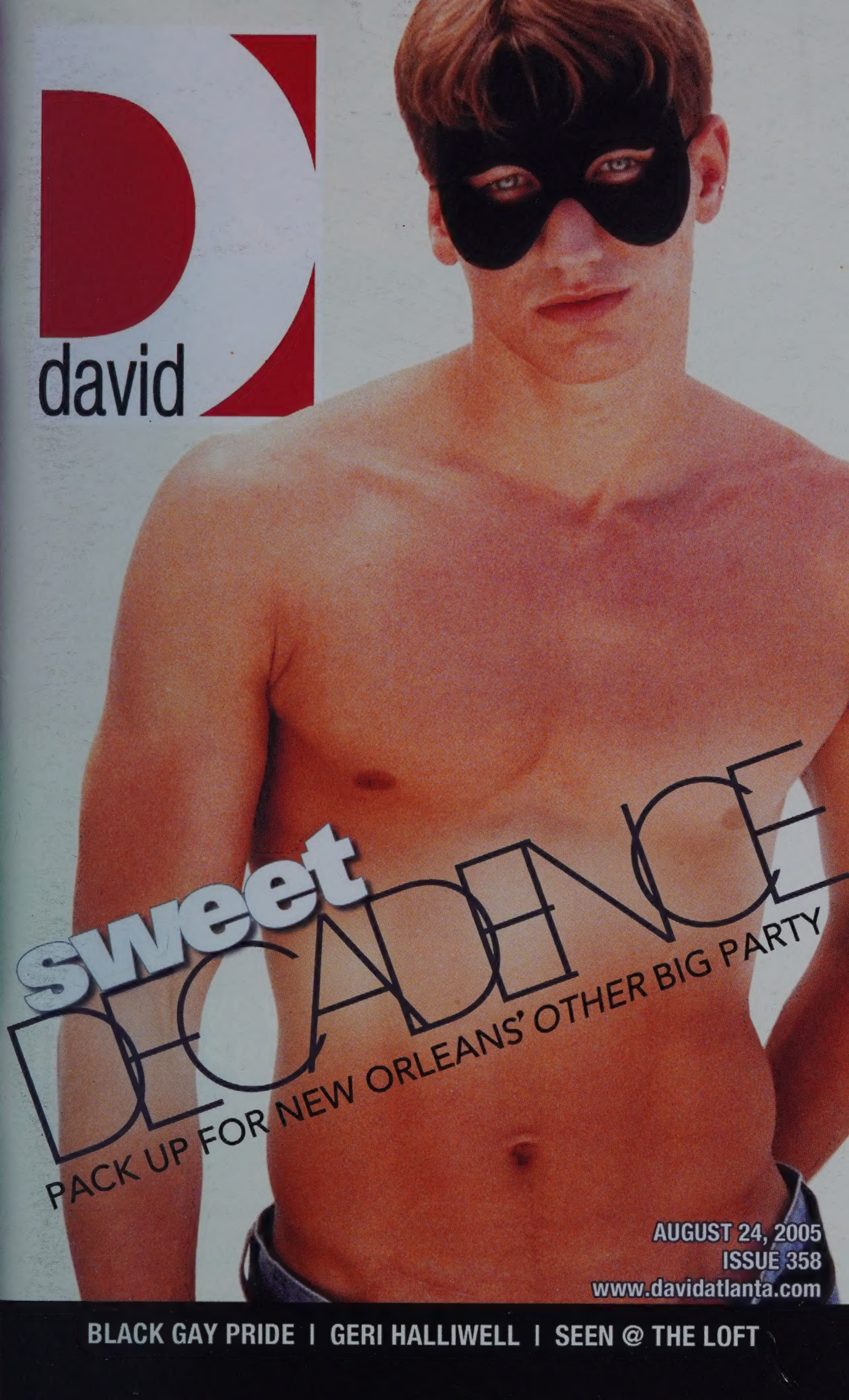
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BIG TIME!!! 9 PM

MONDAY
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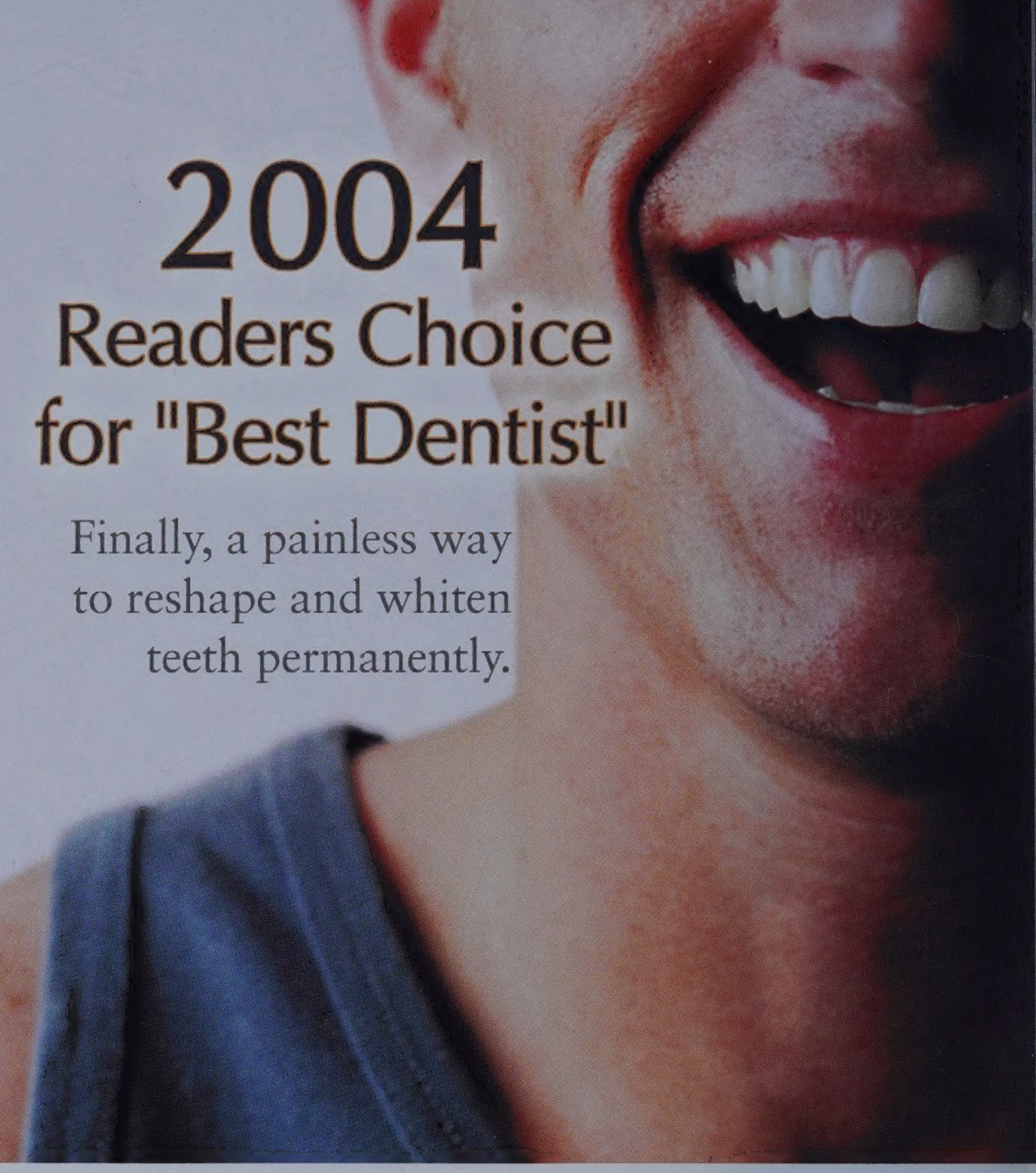

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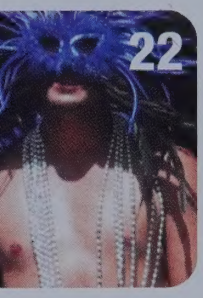

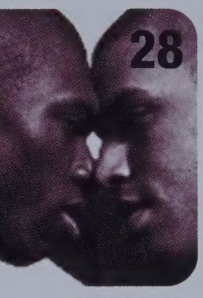

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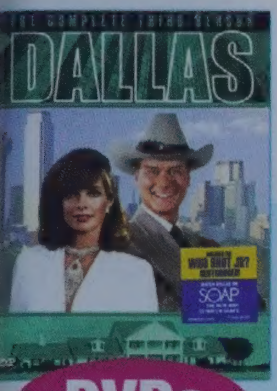

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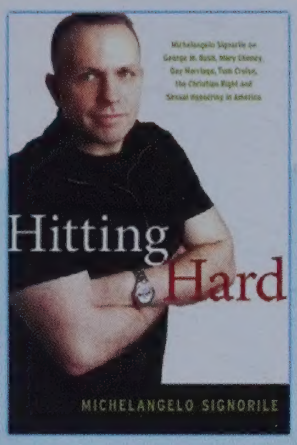

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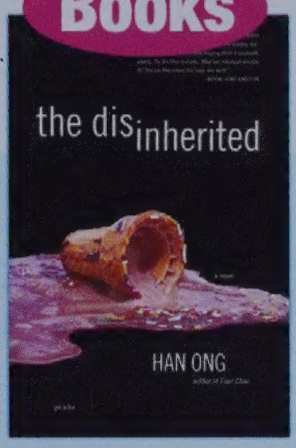

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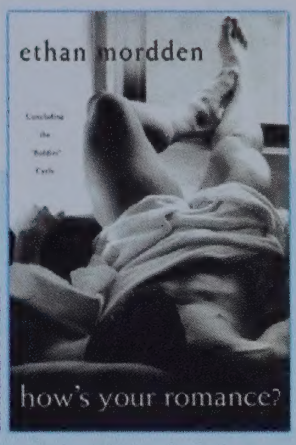

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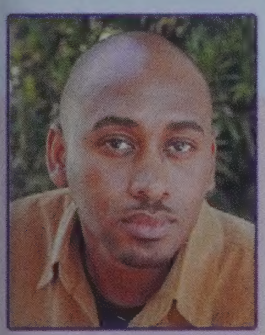

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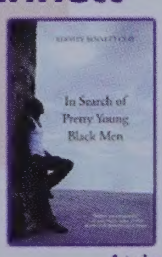

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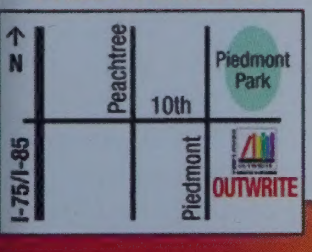

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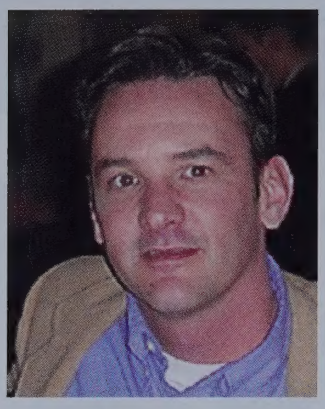


EDITOR'S NOTE

BY MIKE FLEMING

YOU ATE DINNER, SAW A SHOW AND TALKED FOR TWO HOURS. THEN YOU MADE OUT AND WENT TO HIS PLACE. I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU: IT WAS A DATE.

NOTHING SETS MY EYES ROLLING AND tongue clucking faster than guys who create elaborate rules for the words they use — and the ones they allow others to use — to define the men in their lives.

I'm all for defying labels. As gay men, we have an unprecedented freedom to define our own relationships. Quite literally, we live life on our own terms.

But that privilege presents a real challenge. Forget verbal conundrums like "marriage" vs. "civil unions," and set aside the proper use of "rights" and "community." We can't even agree on "gay."

Some of us are "queer" or "homo." Others are "same-gender loving." Still others reclaim "fag" as a term of empowerment. I still don't know anyone who identifies as "GLBTQI," but maybe you're out there.

It's the same when it comes to sex. "We messed around, but we didn't have sex" can mean different acts to different people.

It's all good, until it gets in the way. And from where I stand, we're tripping all over it.

WHEN I ASK IF YOU'RE DATING SOMEONE, YOU know what I mean, right? The question is clear?

But with increasing regularity, I hear an emphatic, "It was *not* a 'date,'" or the even more confusing, "It was a 'date,' but we're definitely not 'dating.'"

I'm not sure why certain words make some people so uncomfortable. Beyond hook-up-only relationships, guys who have sex regularly, see each other socially outside the bedroom and acknowledge an interest beyond sex are still flailing in the terminology pool.

"Seeing each other." Great. "Went out a few times." Cool. "Friends." OK. "We're talking." Whatever.

My personal favorite is "We're hanging out." Uh-huh. You're hanging out of your pants and hanging the truth out to dry. Face it, boys: you're dating.

Even after we admit coupledom, the challenge continues.

"He is not my 'boyfriend.'" "I would never call anyone my 'husband.'" "'Lover' is so old-school." "'Partner' sounds like a business arrangement."

Enough already.

USE WHATEVER TERMS YOU WANT, BUT inflicting our personal glossaries on each other is getting ridiculous. We're impeding simple conversation because we can't agree on the words to use.

Refusing to let someone ask, "How did your date go?" until they comply with our own gay dictionary is silly.

Just have fun with it. Mix and match terms to suit your mood. Make up your own.

My best friend and I joke that we're "sexless husbands." We share each other's triumphs and tribulations. He offers handyman and financial advice, and I give input on clothing, decorating and boys.

We laugh when asked if we are a couple. We don't dig in our heels and demand a rewrite before just answering the damn question.

I have no desire to box in anyone, and I'm not denying any man his wiggle room. I just ask that we nip the nitpicking and cut ourselves enough slack to have a conversation and get on with enjoying each other.

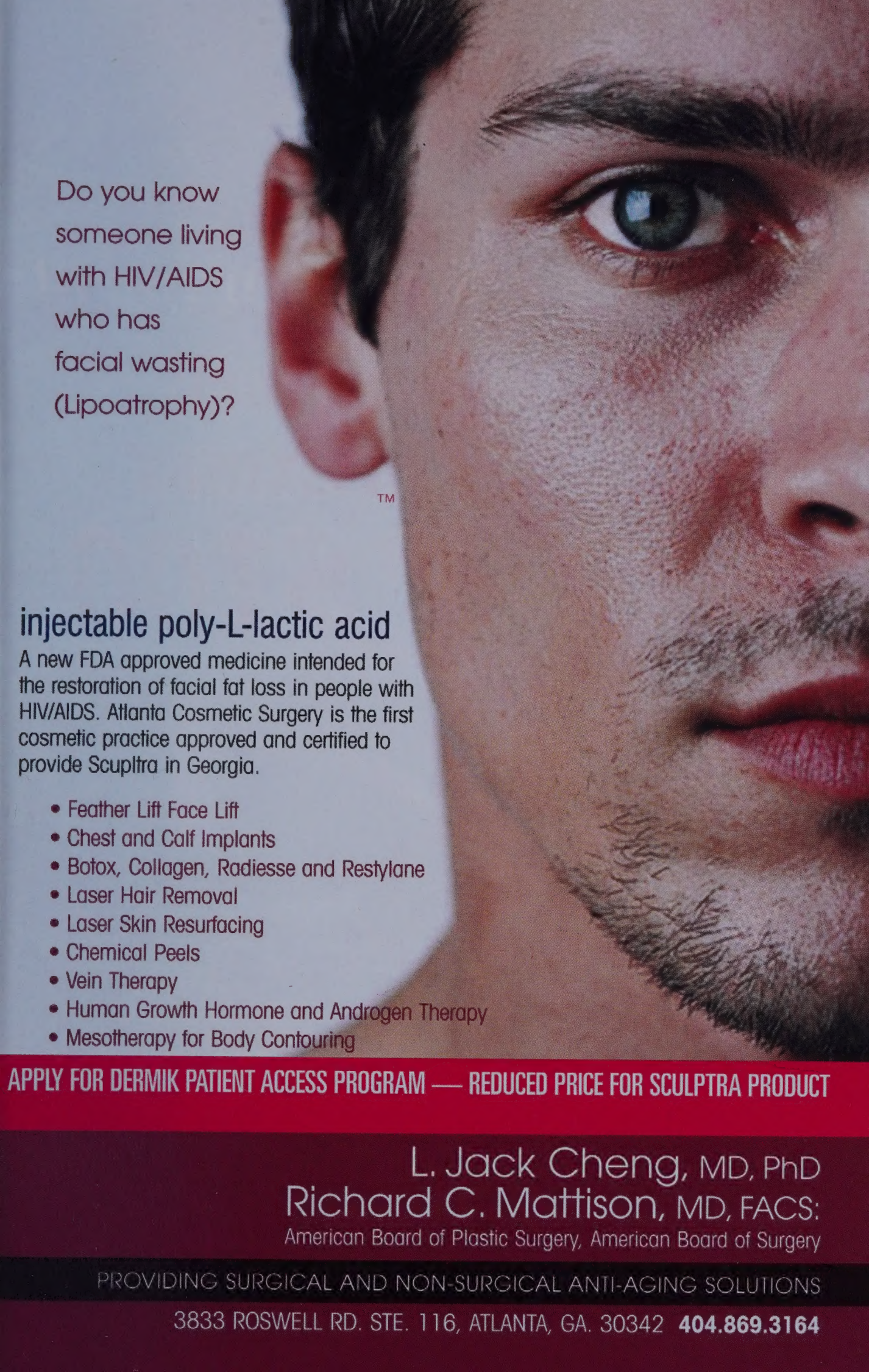
Now get out there and ask someone on a date — and mean it.

WHATEVER YOU CALL YOU AND YOURS, THERE'S something in this week's *David* to call your own. Need to get away for a long weekend? There's about 100,000 gay men headed to New Orleans for Labor Day.

Want to mix it up with a gay gaggle right here in Atlanta? The first of two Black Pride previews is in here, as well as a Datebook full of other gatherings, dances, concerts and parties.

Maybe you just want to stay at home and figure out if the man on your mind is worth labeling at all. Pop in Geri Halliwell's latest CD to keep you company while you work it out.

A big hey to all of the same-gender loving gay men, homos, queers, fags, GLBTQI community members, dates, friends and readers who wrote in over the last couple of weeks. Keep those e-mails coming to MFleming@DavidAtlanta.com. Don't hold back. We won't.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For more information about upcoming vaccination clinics in Atlanta, call the Georgia AIDS and STD InfoLife at 800-551-2728.

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GUEST LIST BY ARMAN D. REYES

WHO GOT IN,
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AND WHO SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE

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Shirley speaks it, **Bart spills it** and Brad testifies it

"I JUST WANNA GET HIGH AND FUCK. Yes ma'am, **Shirley Manson**, you are speaking our language, honey. We do appreciate your honesty.

When the femme fatale from Garbage made her mission statement at Underground perfectly clear on Aug. 13, the crowd went b-a-n-a-n-a-s. Sorry, wrong lead singer-turned-icon.

Just like when they played the Tabernacle in spring, Garbage opened its show with Johnny Cash's cover of NIN's "Hurt," which segued into "Queer."

Shirley and crew, including the super hot bass player with the body from hell, jammed through material from their current album, as well as hits from previous ventures.

Crowd favorites included "Paranoid," "Bad Boyfriend," "Stupid Girl" and "I'm Only Happy When It Rains," which she dedicated to the crowd for braving the weather.

THAT'S WHAT WE HEARD

IN UNDERGROUND, WE LUCKED INTO MIRRORBALL Productions cutie **Bart Clennon** who gave us the inside scoop on something wicked coming this way.

Apparently, Atlanta's nightlife elite are already planning this year's New Year's celebration, and it's going to be one for the Clubland history books. So if you've made plans to hit it out of town, you may want to see if that ticket is transferable.

What we heard isn't really ready for print, but get ready to ring in 2006 properly. We'd tell it, but we don't think you can handle the truth — yet.

EXTREME MAKEOVERS

While we're on the subject of cuties, we stopped by the space formerly known as Buddies on Cheshire Bridge and had a quick cocktail with the adorable **Bobby Hamill**. The transformation from Buddies into the new-and-improved, industrial-strength bar and lounge **B.J.'s Roosters** is uncanny.

Toolbox metal was used to cover the bar and many of the fixtures, and the walls are all black. The changes give a sexy feel to the shabby chic watering hole.

The weekly schedule at the venue is also in the process of a makeover. Those lucky enough to attend **John & Bobby's Big Fag Gay Male Stripper Wedding** in December saw a potent combination of drag and male strippers performing to an outstanding response.

Now the look and feel of that grand event is on tap weekly. Inside sources say the **Dancing Diva, Atlanta's Fiercest** and **Most Underrated Entertainers** are tapped to host throughout the week.

SPEAKING OF A NEW LOOK AND FEEL FOR established favorites, we got the inside scoop on the WETbar expansion from "throw me up against the wall and frisk me" hottie security stud **Danny**.

We hear the old Blu space is set to feature glamorous water fountains, a rotating dance floor and superstar VIP areas.

RUMOR CONTROL

Finally, looks like we need to address the red-hot rumor blazing about the gay ghetto that **Red Chair Restaurant & Video Lounge** was sold. The Guest List got an exclusive interview with the dashing **Brad Williams** regarding this apparent fabrication and got the following quote:

"No Sale."

The supposed buyers seemed just as baffled by the gossip.

"That information is unfounded," the pair says.

So that's the word straight from the horses' mouths. Next?

Arman D. Reyes shamelessly used his press credentials to get backstage in an attempt to seduce Garbage's bass player.
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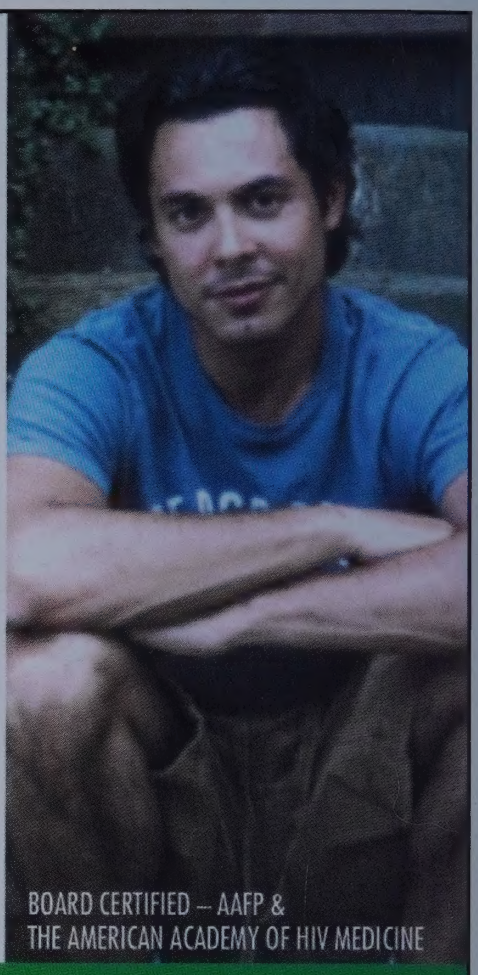

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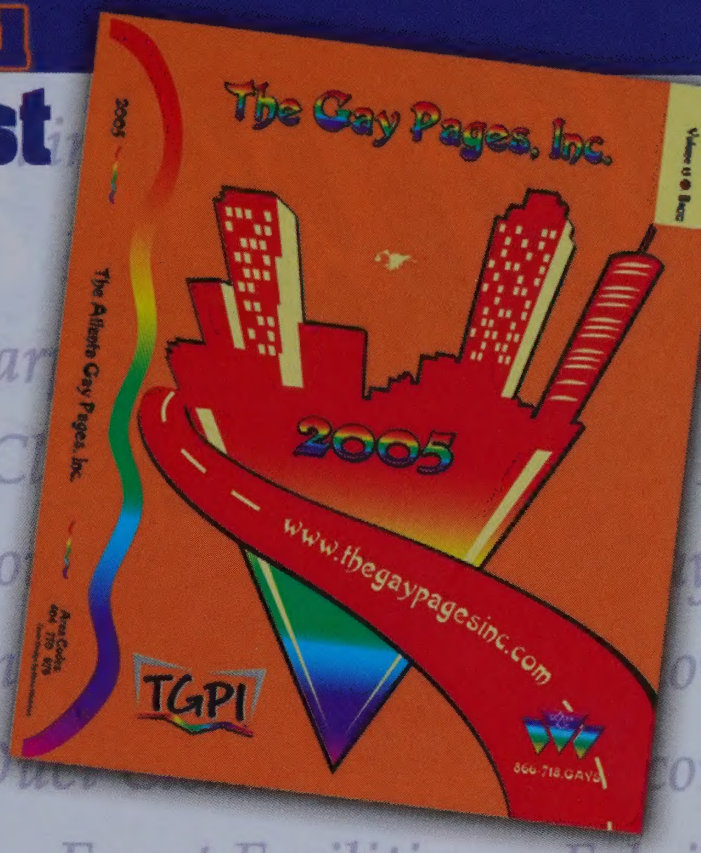

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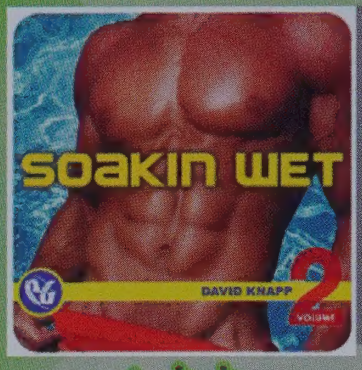

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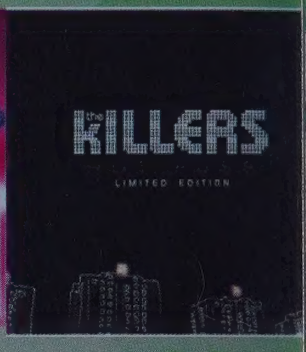

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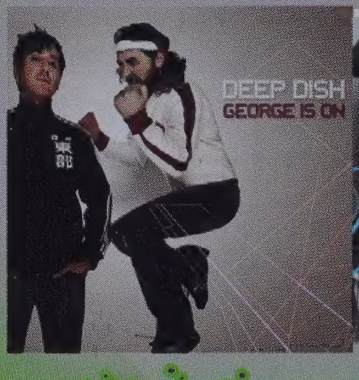

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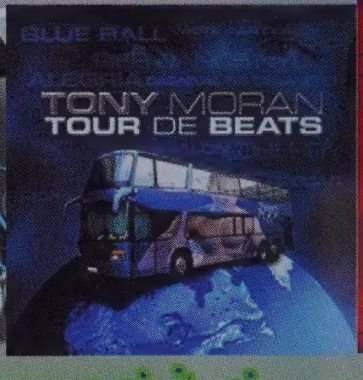

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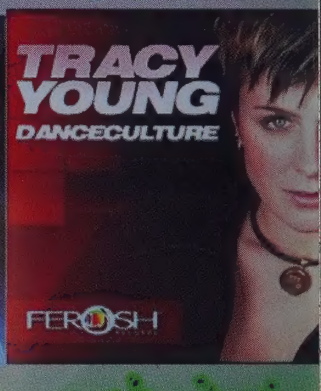

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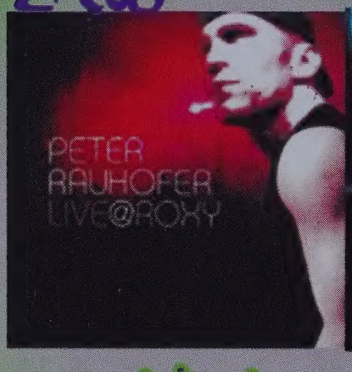

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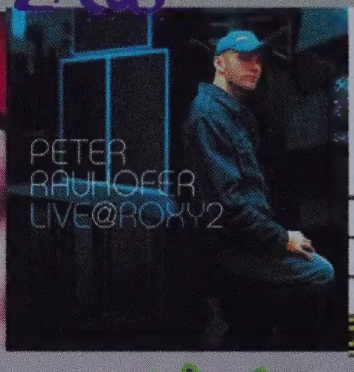

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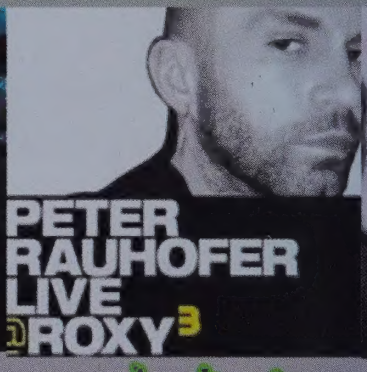

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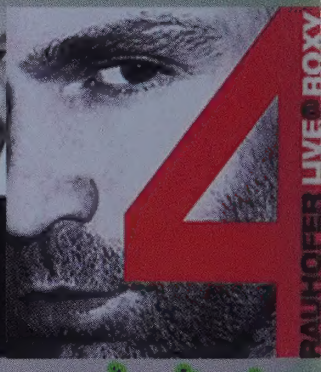

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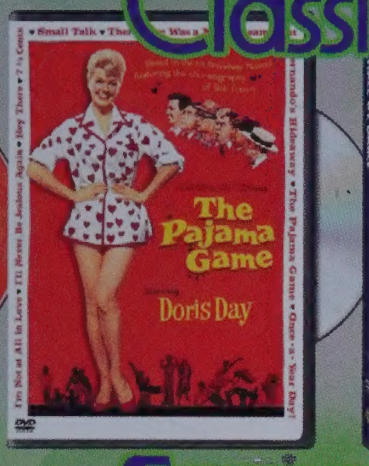

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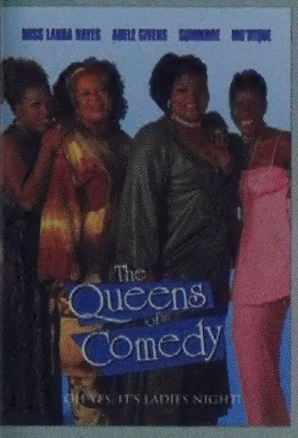

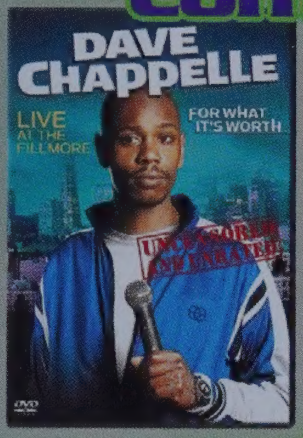

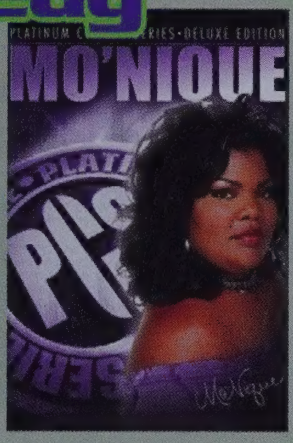

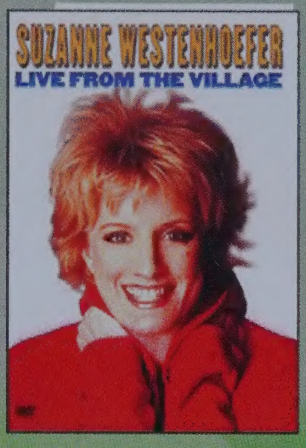

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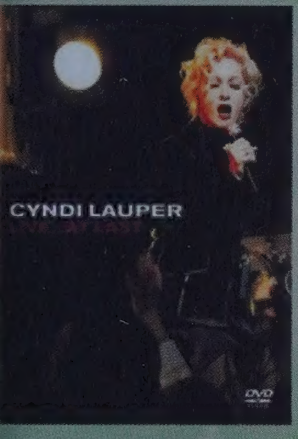

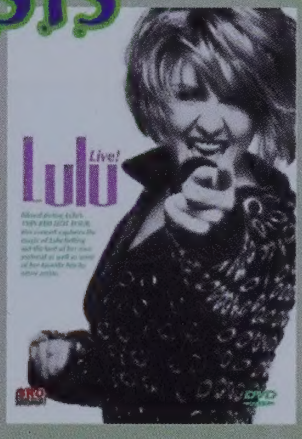

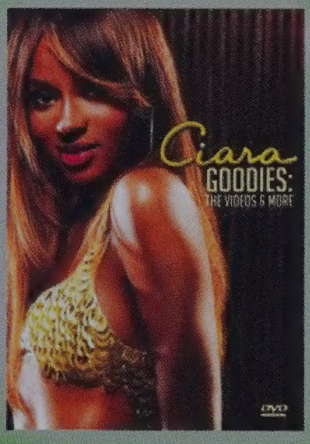

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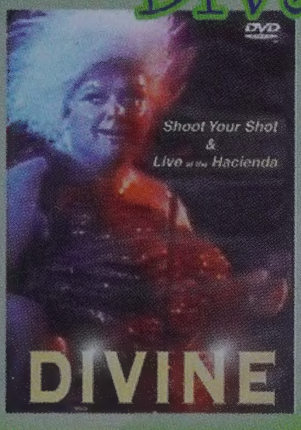

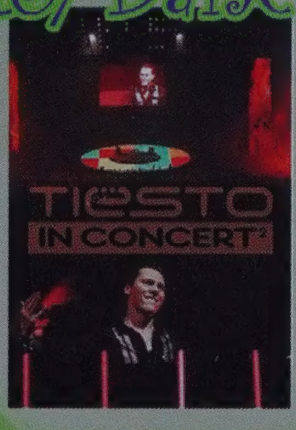

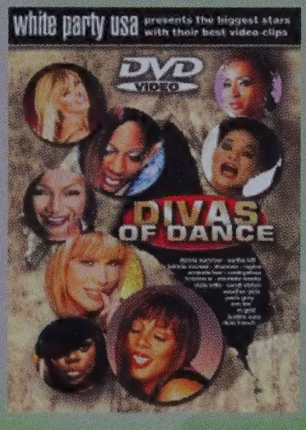

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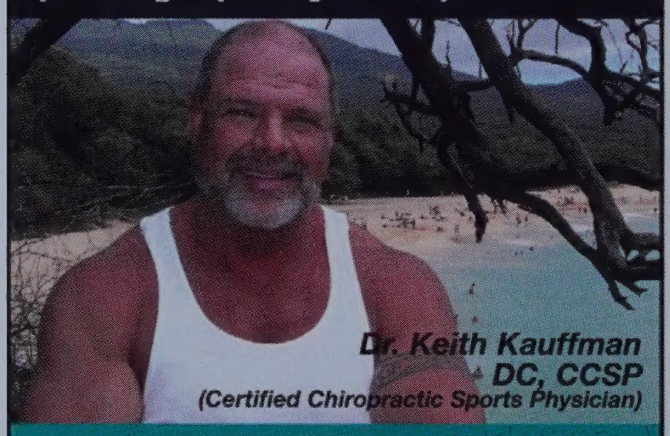

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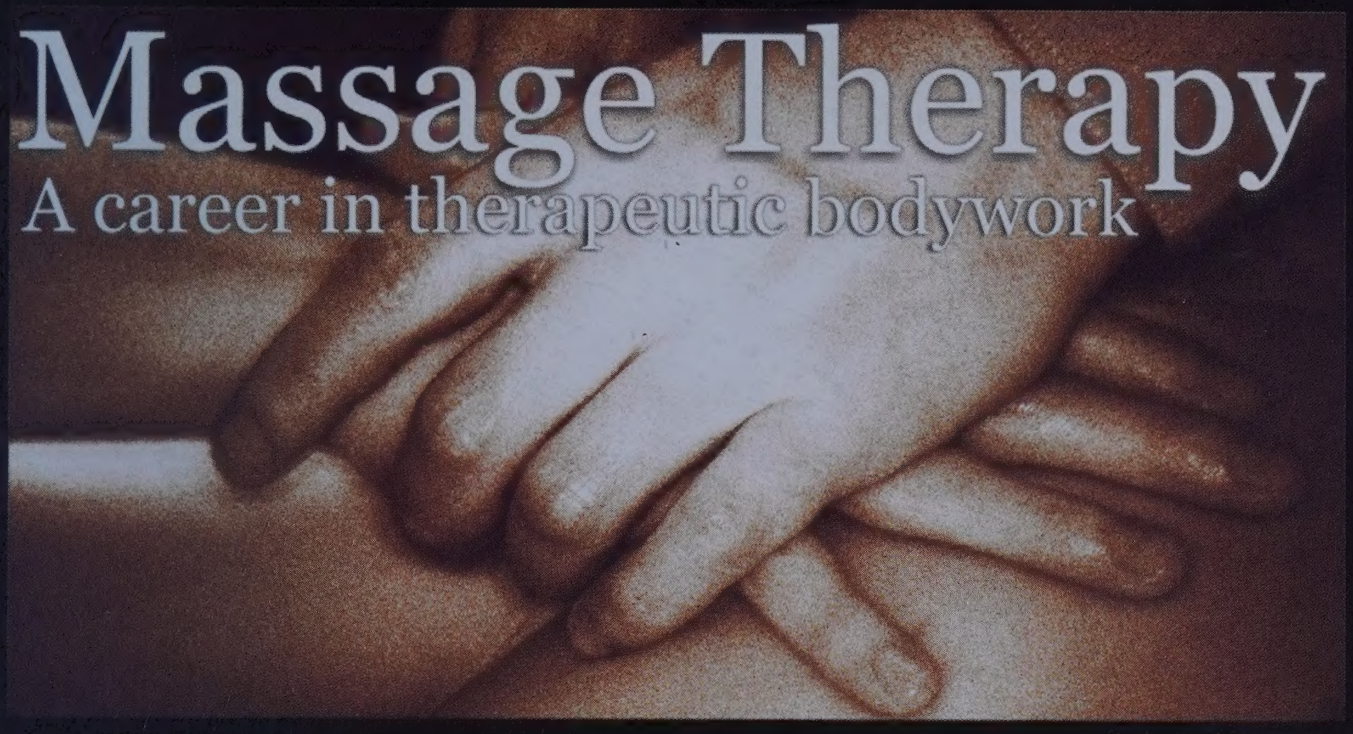

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BY RYAN LEE

All That Jazz

New Orleans steams up during **Southern Decadence** XXXIV

MORE THAN 100,000 GAY MEN AND A FEW lesbians and fag hags flood New Orleans' French Quarter each year for Labor Day weekend, looking to pack as much decadence as possible into six days of hedonistic partying.

Starting as a small party among friends in 1973, Southern Decadence exploded over the last three decades into one the nation's premier gay party stops and was unofficially dubbed the "gay Mardi Gras."

This year's Southern Decadence XXXIV runs Aug. 31 through Sept. 5, and is themed "Jazz & Jezebels."

In addition to the litany of parties and dances, Southern Decadence also features its hallmark parade of costumed queens Sept. 4. Those donning a costume for the parade are encouraged to tie it into the "Jazz & Jezebels" theme, which was chosen by this year's parade grand marshals, Regina Adams and Lisa Beaumann.

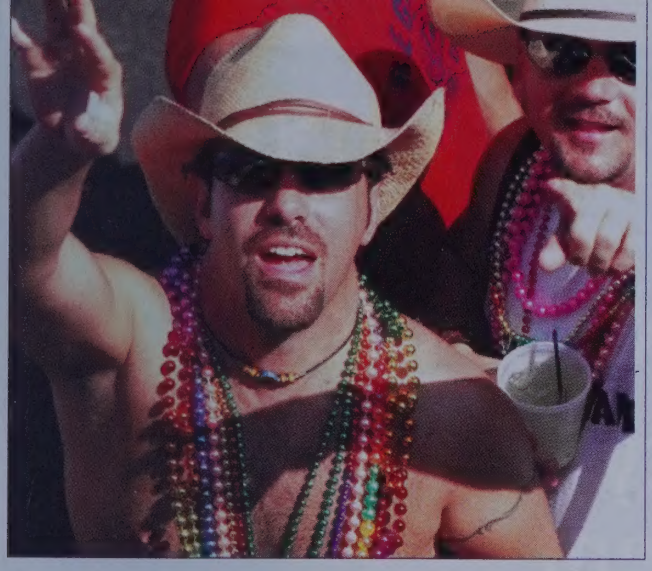
"They're going for a 1920s theme and they're looking for glamour and gangster costumes," says Rip Naquin-Delain, who operates www.southerndecadence.com.

Naquin-Delain expects 2005 to be a "bumper year" for Southern Decadence since more than 1,000 visitors download the special events listing from his Web site each day.

OVER THE YEARS, SOUTHERN DECADENCE became known for its flamboyant and irreverent costumes that left little to the imagination. The annual event also became synonymous with no-holds-barred sex on the streets and back alleys of the French Quarter.

Kevin Maer, a gay Little Rock, Ark., resident who plans to attend Southern Decadence for the first time this year, says friends told him stories about how outrageous the episodes of public sex can get, but adds that he's heard it's gotten much tamer.

"I know that it's a pretty wild time, but that



it isn't as wild as it was years ago," says Maer, who is also attending "Convergence 2005," a conference for plus-sized gay men that coincides with Decadence.

Virtually gone are the days when the gay epicenter of Bourbon Street at St. Ann Street radiated in every direction with free sex on the roofs of moving SUVs, on bar tops and in the streets. New Orleans police and local gay residents aim to restore some civility to Southern Decadence to keep the city on the side of hosting the event.

"It's moderated in the past couple of years — the sexuality of it peaked in 2002 and it was a little over the top, and, quite frankly, it was a little much," says Jonathan Bray, manager of Bourbon Pub and operator of www.southerndecadence.net.

"When the pendulum swings too far in one direction, it has to swing too far in the other direction before it evens out," Bray says.

The initial crackdown came in 2003 from New Orleans police and city officials after protests from religious conservatives. But in 2004 "the gay community here in New Orleans came together and says we can control ourselves," Bray says.

"In 2003, it was a kind of shock to some people who had grown accustomed to coming into New Orleans and cutting loose, acting all wild and then leaving the local gay community to deal with the aftermath," he adds.

Much of the campaign to curb public sex revolves around organizers' attempt to keep Southern Decadence revelers out of a New Orleans jail cell, Naquin-Delain says.

"When everybody comes to New Orleans, they've kind of got a 'Girls Gone Wild' mentality and that can lead them into trouble," he says.

"Over the past few years we've been conducting a campaign to take those intimate acts inside because we don't want anybody locked up for lewd behavior," he says.

calendar highlights page 26

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WEDNESDAY AUG. 31

Southern Decadence kickoff
Oz, 11:30 p.m.
www.ozneworleans.com

THURSDAY SEPT. 1

Chi Chi LaRue's kickoff
Bourbon Pub, Midnight
www.bourbonpub.com

FRIDAY SEPT. 2

Grand Marshal drag show
Golden Lantern, 8 p.m.

Divas of Decadence concert
Twiropa, 9 p.m.
Leather Decadence
Phoenix, 10 p.m.

Southern Decadence dance party
Oz, 10 p.m.

Euphoria, Bourbon Pub, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY SEPT. 3

Bourbon Street Extravaganza
Napoleon's Itch, 5 p.m.

Deca-Dance, Bourbon Pub, 10 p.m.

Twirl Girl: Grab Your Pussy and Scream
Oz, 10 p.m.

SUNDAY SEPT. 4

Southern Decadence parade
Steps off at Golden Lantern, 2 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 5

Closing party
Corner Pocket, 2 p.m.

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POWER & PRIDE

Black Gay Pride comes to ATL over Labor Day weekend

TO FIND THE HOTTEST PARTIES and get-togethers during Atlanta's annual Black Gay Pride festival over Labor Day weekend, you'd better get on the bus.

In order to help visitors navigate Atlanta's dizzying traffic, organizers are running two "party buses" throughout the weekend to usher folks to both predominately male and female events, says Darlene Hudson executive director of In the Life Atlanta, the group that produces Black Gay Pride each year.

"It's going to save our guests a lot of money and a lot of time from being tied up in traffic." says Hudson, who adds that the

STEVEN UNDERHILL

buses should also curb drinking and driving.

This year's events run Aug. 31 to Sept. 5, with many of the workshops and panel discussions taking place in the Sheraton Midtown at Colony Square, the event's host hotel. The Sheraton also houses the Black Pride Marketplace, where trinkets, art and paraphernalia are available.

"The weekend winds down with the annual "Stand Up & Represent" march on Labor Day, in which participants walk through downtown Atlanta from the Martin Luther King Center to the Georgia State Capitol."

Registration and events including a candlelight vigil take place early in the week, but the weekend kicks into full-swing during the Sept. 2 opening ceremony at the Sheraton, featuring performances by several local artists and the official recognition of Black Gay Pride from the city of Atlanta.

In an attempt to expand the scope of Black Gay Pride, a fashion show sponsored by La Gender, an organization for transgendered people, immediately follows Friday night's opening ceremony.

"Unlike previous years, this year we have a very strong transgender coming aboard for the weekend," Hudson says.

Another heavy focus of the weekend is on healthy living among black gay men, lesbians and transgender folks, with a two-day health conference taking place Sept. 3 and 4.

A variety of workshops and speakers are scheduled to address health disparities among blacks, and attempt to heighten awareness among blacks about everything from prostate cancer to diabetes.

The health conference includes a Saturday morning workout session at the Sheraton, and a speech by Vallerie Wagner, chief operating officer of the Black AIDS Institute in Los Angeles.

"We're trying to incorporate into our pride that we have to be healthy to party," Hudson says.

AND IT'S THE PARTIES THAT ARE THE TRUE highlight of the weekend for the tens of thousands of participants. ITLA and numerous nightlife venues host special events throughout the weekend.

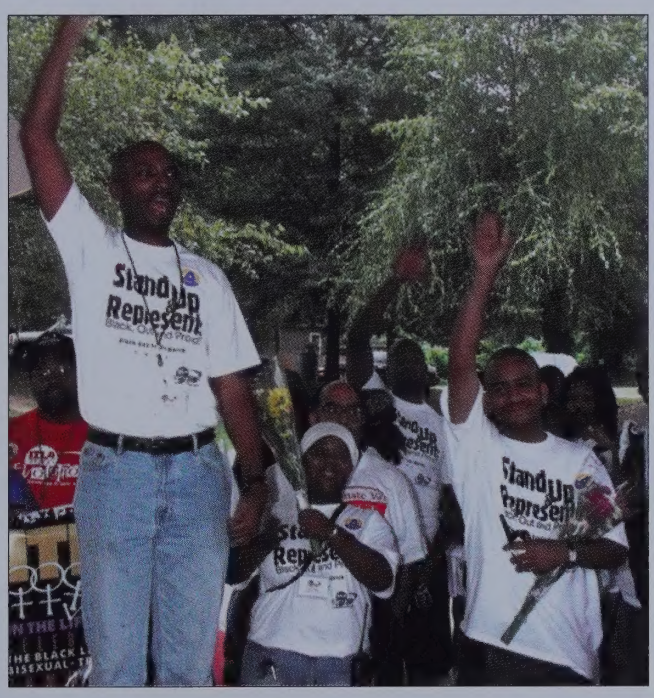
A VIP pass is available for $65 that covers admission to all ITLA-sponsored events. The passes also include admission discounts to several clubs, Hudson said. Ticket prices for the two party buses are also discounted for people with VIP passes.

A community luncheon scheduled for Sept. 3 includes a panel discussion about how to build bridges between gay and straight blacks, and features Atlanta City Council member H. Lamar Willis, Wagner of the Black AIDS Institute and Rev. Kenneth Samuel, pastor of the gay-affirming Victory United Church of Christ in Stone Mountain.

Also on Sept. 3, ITLA presents its 3rd annual Black Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, featuring four films that look at various aspects of black gay culture.

An estimated 30,000 people attended Black Gay Pride in 2004, and Hudson says she hopes that number grows this year to about 40,000 to 45,000.

The weekend winds down with the annual "Stand Up & Represent" march on Labor Day, in which participants walk through downtown Atlanta from the Martin Luther King Center to the Georgia State Capitol.



Black Gay Pride hits Atlanta Aug. 31 to Sept. 5. Check official event listings at www.inthelifeatl.com, and keep an eye out for detailed coverage of some events in next week's David.

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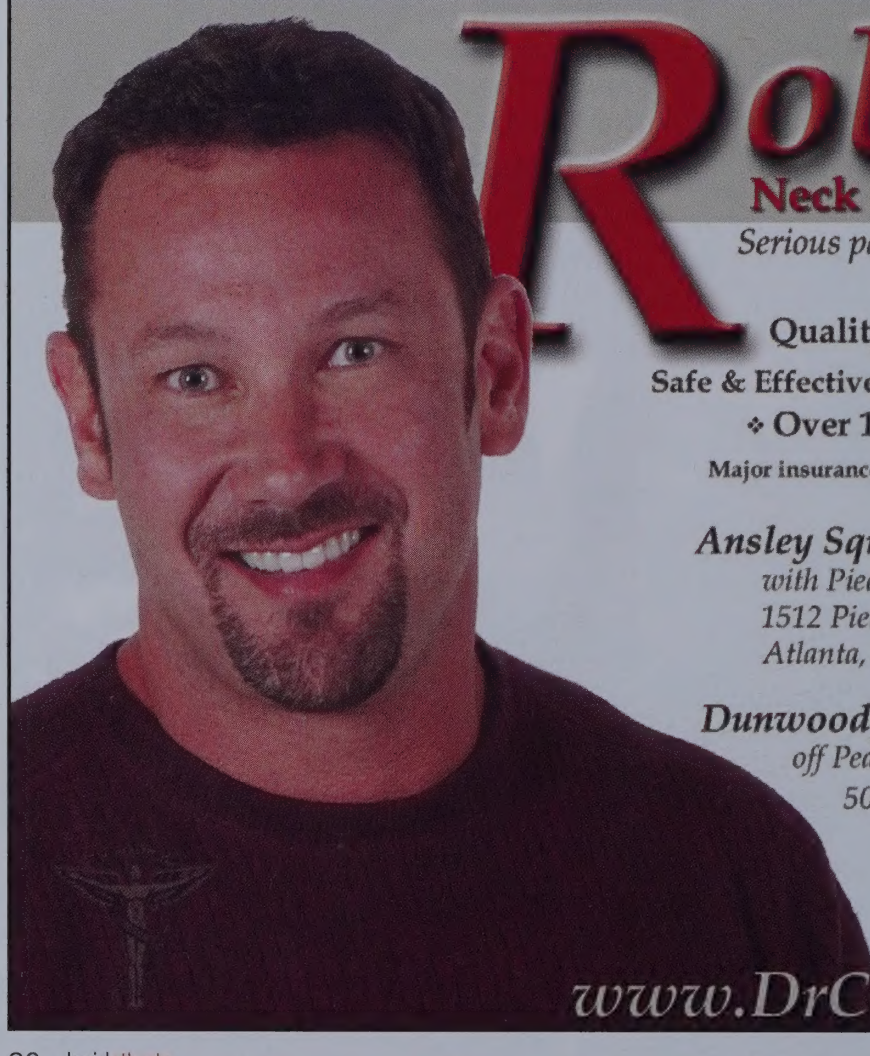

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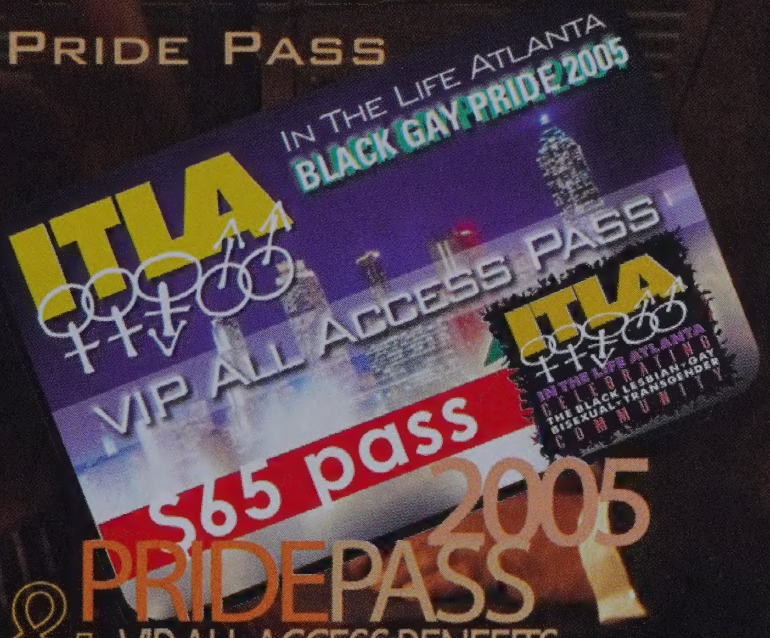

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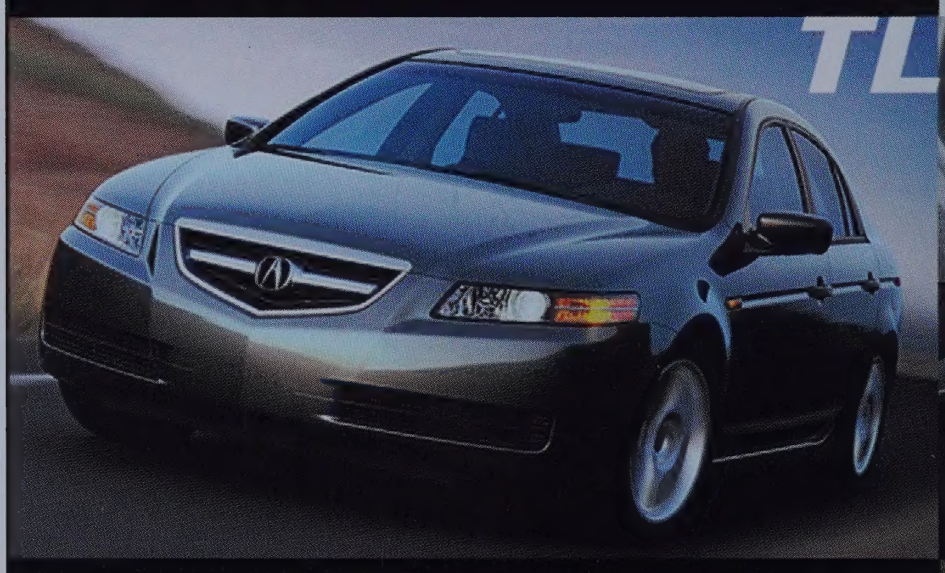

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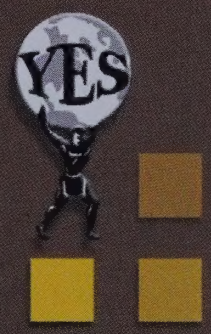

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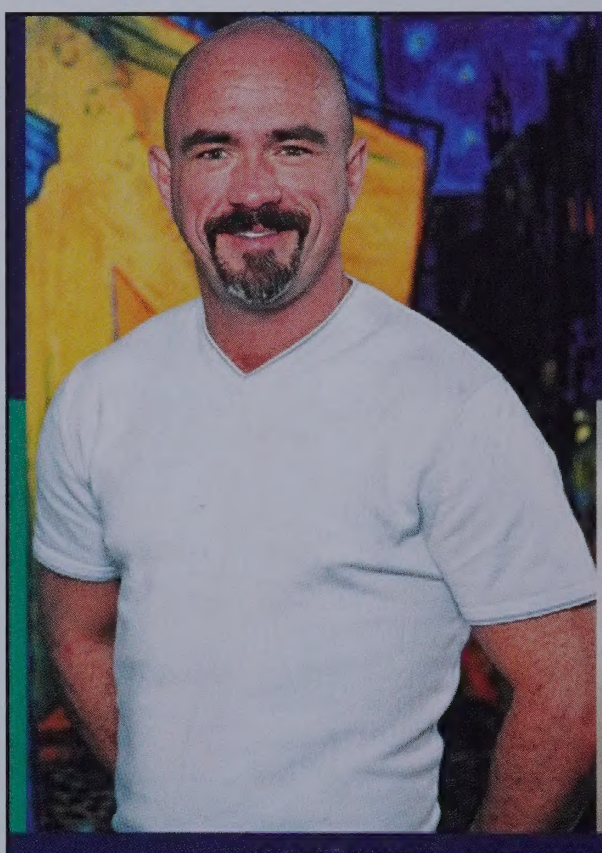

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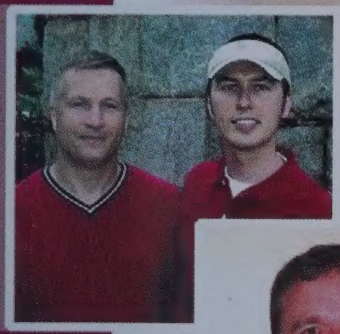

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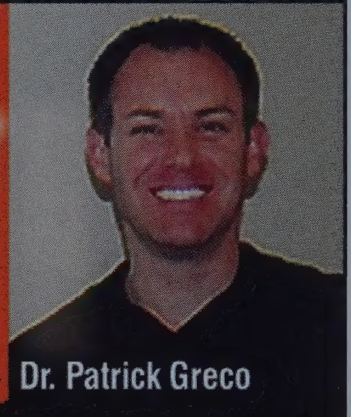

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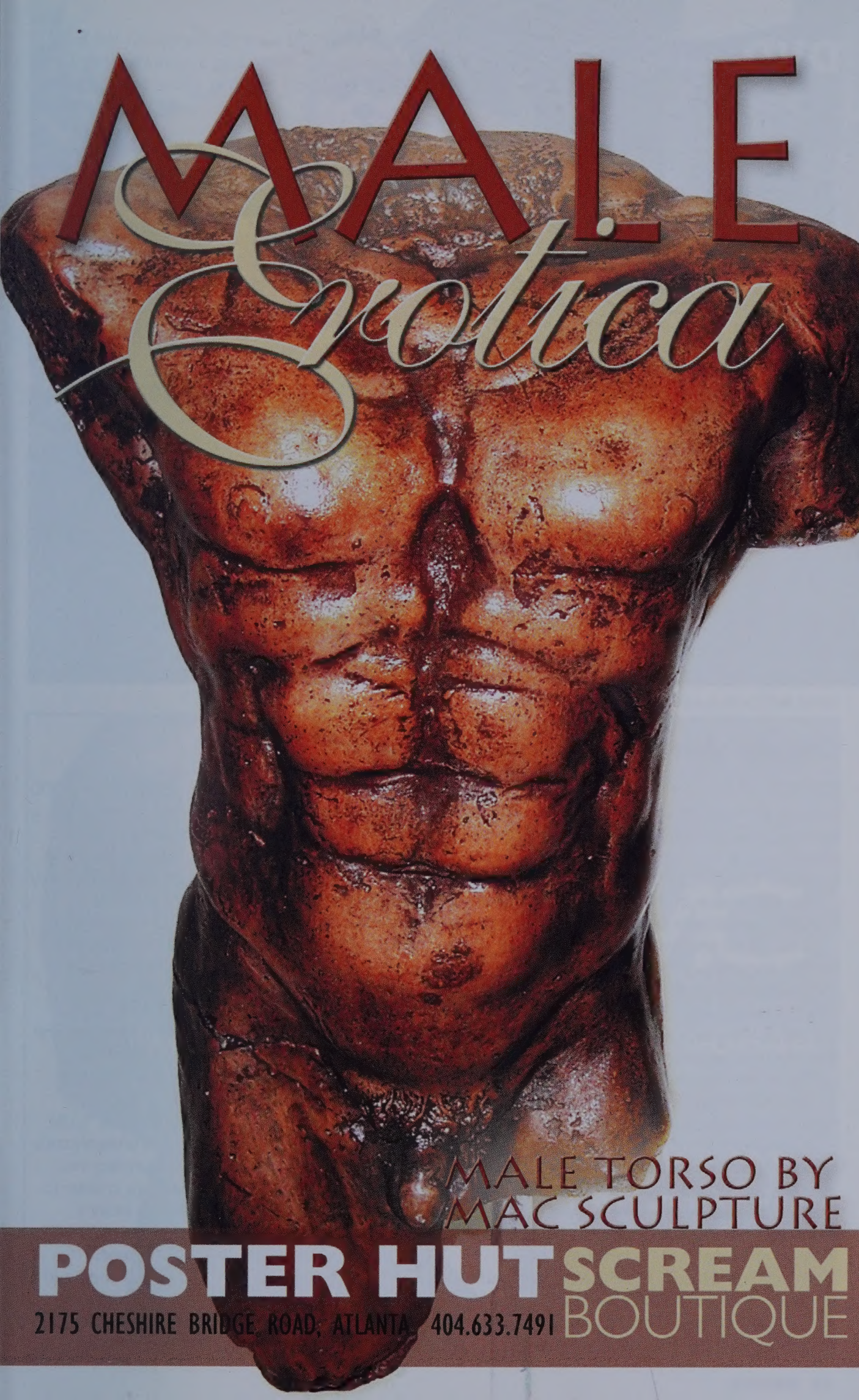
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Endearing oddballs populate '**Little Britain**,' arriving stateside

GAY MEN, TRANSVESTITES AND A REBELLIOUS teenage girls who think no one could possibly be more outrageous than them meet their matches in spades among the many endearing misfits who populate "Little Britain: the Complete First Series."

The first season of the smash British sketch comedy show came to DVD in the states on Aug. 16.

Matt Lucas and David Walliams, the show's writers and stars, create and portray the recurring cast of male and female, gay and straight characters.

Daffyd Thomas (Lucas) is a rotund diva of a gay man who proudly flaunts skimpy, gaudy outfits to the complete indifference and acceptance of his neighbors. Lucas, who is gay, reportedly based the character on himself.

In episode one, Daffyd melodramatically complains to the local barmaid how hard it is being "the only gay in the village." But when another similarly dressed swishy gay man (Walliams, who is straight) enters the pub, snooty Daffyd resents the stranger muscling in on his territory.

Throughout the series, even when confronted with proof that he isn't the only gay man in the village, Daffyd does his best to expel all competition. The running gag works hilariously.

HUNKY WALLIAMS ALSO PLAYS "NOT VERY GOOD transvestite" Emily Howard. She identifies as a woman, but finds difficulty passing with her linebacker's build and scarcely credible voice.

During one of her funniest appearances, Emily is at the doctor's office seeking medical attention after falling off a bus and injuring her groin. The doc wants to take X-rays. Clocking Emily as a biological man, he gives her a lead-lined shield for her testicles.

Scandalized, Emily begins pulling multiple items out of her purse, including a hand fan and her cat. She tries to use them to guard her groin rather than the unflattering lead shield before finally refusing treatment.

One of the most inspired characters in "Little Britain" is Vicky Pollard (Lucas), an unrepentantly vulgar trailer-trash teenager who launches into rapid-fire, incomprehensible ramblings in order to deflect responsibility for her actions. Vicky's conflicted "Yeah, but no, but yeah, but no" rant is already a popular catchphrase in England.

Whether smoking a cigarette and peeing in the public swimming pool, trying to pass off a crudely hand-drawn fake ID, biting another girl in the Young Offenders Institution cafeteria, or

trading her newborn baby for a CD, Vicky gives juvenile delinquents a bad name. Lucas invests her with over-the-top, petulant trashiness that's achingly funny.

"LITTLE BRITAIN: THE COMPLETE FIRST Series" includes many other deliriously daffy characters. Chameleons Lucas and Walliams prove to be wicked comic geniuses that breathe memorable, irreverent life into every village resident.

The show is guaranteed to gain new fans in the U.S. and have them laughing until it hurts.

Tom Baker ("Doctor Who") wittily narrates the series' eight episodes. Entertaining bonus features include audio commentaries, behind-the-scenes documentaries, interviews, the pilot episode and deleted scenes. The best extra feature, "What Does Britain Mean to You?" presents man-on-the-street interviews with each of the series' characters.

The second season of "Little Britain" premiered on BBC America on Aug. 17. That DVD is expected to be available in the U.S. in 2006.

'Little Britain: The Complete First Series' is available on BBC Video. www.bbcamerica.com

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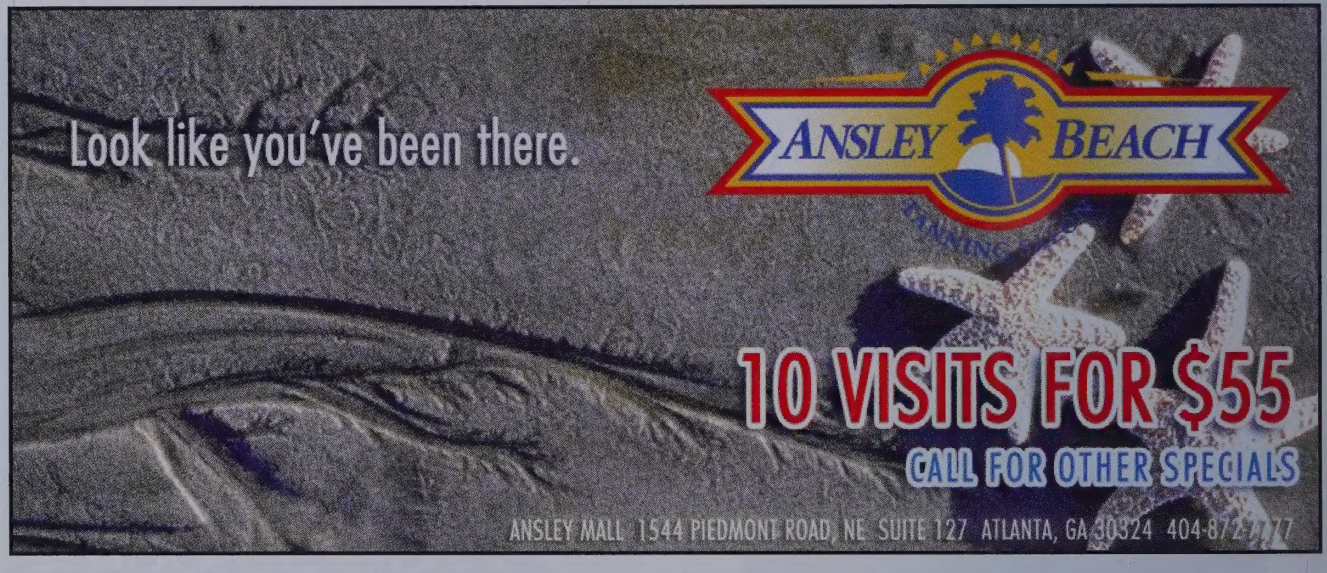
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DATEBOOK 08.24 — 08.30

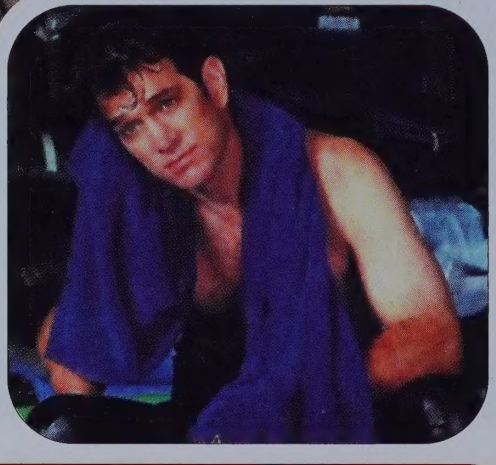
COMPILED BY VAN GOWER

BEATS AND BODY

The boys love **Tony Moran**, (right) and it's not just because he's got a bod to die for. The uber-remix producer/DJ reworks hits for everyone from Britney to Beyonce, Cher to Cyndi, packing gay dance floors in the process. He's sure to do just that when he returns to Atlanta Aug. 27. *Doors open 10 p.m. Jungle, 2115 Faulkner Road. $10 members, $20 non-members. 404-844-8800, www.jungleclub.net, www.djtonymoran.com*

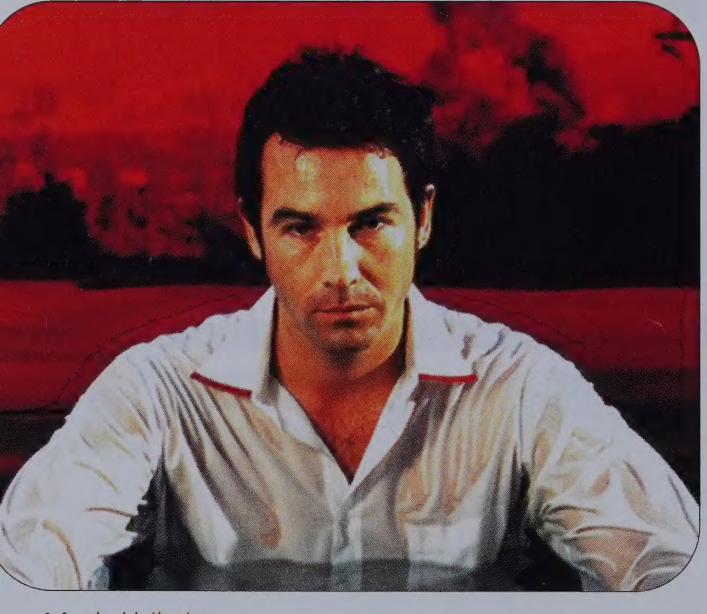
GROOVE IN REINA'S HEART

Chart-topping singer **Reina** (left) ("If I Close My Eyes," "No One's Gonna Change You") is among 18 dance artists and DJs scheduled for "**Groove Fest '05**." 18 to party, 21 to drink. *Aug. 27. 2-10 p.m. Compound, 1008 Brady Ave. $20 adv., $30 at the gate. www.groovefest05.com, www.reinascastle.com*



CALIFORNIA DREAMY

Chris Isaak (left) knows his way around some rockabilly tunes, but it's this California native's velvety vocals and hunky good looks that set gay men's hearts aflutter. What a wicked shame he's straight. Isaak performs Aug. 28 with opening act **Shelby Lynne**. *8 p.m. Chastain Park Amphitheatre, 4469 Stella Drive at Pool Road. $38.50-$48.50. 404-249-6400, www.repriserec.com/chrisisaak, www.shelbylynne.com*



SEXY SHEIK

Some of his songs were remixed into gay dance floor hits by the likes of Junior Vasquez, he performs at Pride events, and he's drop-dead gorgeous. Little wonder that **Duncan Sheik** (left) gets us soaking wet. Aug. 30 at Smith's Olde Bar. Doors open 8 p.m. *1578 Piedmont Ave. $15 adv., $18 day of show. 404-875-1522, www.smithsoldebar.com, www.duncansheik.com*

CAMP OUT

"**Camp Mary's: End of the Summer Blow Out**" brings back memories of outdoor sleepover activities like spin-the-bottle and truth-or-dare. Hopefully no hiding underwear in the freezer is on tap. *Aug. 26. 9 p.m. 1287 Glenwood Ave. 404-624-4411, www.marysatlanta.com*

HOT DATE

08.27 "COMING OUT AS PERFORMANCE": Free workshop presented by Intown Coaching & Counseling Group offers ideas for making coming-out a creative experience. *5:30 p.m. Atlanta-Fulton County Public Library at 980 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-897-1766, www.lifecoachglobal.com*

08.27 GEORGIA EQUALITY: "Evening for Equality" gala includes awards honoring political and business leaders who work to advance gay rights. *7 p.m. Georgia Tech – L.W. Robert Jr. Alumni House, 190 North Ave. $50. 404-327-9898, www.georgiaequality.org*

08.29 HOTLANTA SQUARES: Gay square dancing club holds a free open house including basic step instructions and demonstrations. *7-9 p.m. First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. www.iagsdc.org/hotlanta*

08.30 BIG GAY SUPPER CLUB: Four-course meal, cocktails and good company are on the menu for this monthly tour of Atlanta's hottest restaurants. Emcee **Jason Jupiter** (right). *7 p.m. at Iris, 1314 Glenwood Ave. $35. Reservations: 404-668-5649, www.biggaysupperclub.com*

NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Please submit calendar entries no later than 5 p.m. on Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Send your listings to editor@davidatlanta.com

WED 08.24

ARMORY. DJ Rob Reum, 9 pm - 3 am
BLAKE'S. "Brain Freeze" trivia w/Ruby Redd, 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke w/Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
FELIX'S. Jackpot Karaoke, 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.
HERETIC. "Dress Code Party" w/ DJ Rick Walsh. 10 p.m. No cover..
HOEDOWNS. Free cha-cha dance lessons, 8 p.m.
JUNGLE. Southern line dancing, 7-9 p.m.
LeBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz" drag show, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. Video request night.
METRO. Wonder Girls presents "Girls Night Out" with DJ Fley 10pm
MISS Q'S. Pool leagues.
MODEL T. Movie night, midnight.
OSCARS. Comedy night w/DJ Ken B, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Dinner & A Movie.
STAGE DOOR. Trivia, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
SUTRA LOUNGE. "Accelorator" Wednesdays Boys' Night Out with DJ Brian Beck and rotating weekly entertainment. 1136 Crescent Ave., 404.607.1160, www.sutraloungeatl.com
SWINGING RICHARDS. No cover before 10 p.m.
VAL'S. Singles or team trivia, 8 p.m.
WETbar. "Hot, WET & Wired Weekdays" free wireless internet starting 5:30 p.m. "Martinis & Movies," 9 p.m.

THU 08.25

ARMORY. Open 9 p.m. Wassup-n-Atl promo begins 10 p.m.
BLAKE'S. "Total Request Live," 9 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Kitty LeClaw's 'Meow Mix,' midnight.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret starring Charlie Brown and cast. Open 9 p.m.-4 a.m. Talent search, sign-up 9-10:30 p.m. Continuous show 11 p.m.-4 a.m.
EAGLE. "Blackout Thursday," 10 p.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Happy hour, 5-9 p.m.
HERETIC. "Experience Rapture" w/ DJ Rick Walsh. 10 p.m. No cover.
HOEDOWNS. Ladies Night. Free rotating dance lessons, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Trivia with Tom & Jim, 8-10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. "Bad Boyz, Bad Girlz" drag show, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. Rotating weekly theme nights.
METRO. "Jueves Grandes!" Latin Music w/DJ Fley, 10 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. "Trivia with prizes, 9 p.m.
OSCARS. Pure energy, pure videos.
RED CHAIR. "The Karaoke Contest," 10 p.m.
STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
TRIPPS. Country night w/Ron and Mike, 9 p.m.
WETBAR. "College Night Thursdays" with DJ Greg Dean and "WETboys."

MAD MONDAY

MONDAY
INDUSTRY
NIGHT &
Shawnna
Brooks'
MAD
MONDAY
REVUE
with
Ashley Kruiz
& Destiny

bartenders
RC Searfoss
Will Wenke
Jimmy Edwards

DJ Randy McDaniels 10 pm

Wondergirl

WEDNESDAY
Aug 31, 11pm

Bad
Boyz
KINGS &
QUEENS
REVUE

music by
DJ FLEY
10 pm

bartenders
Morgan &
Michele

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FRI 08.26

ARMORY. Patio Bar open 3 p.m.-3 am. DJ George Greenlee 9 p.m. "Glamazons," 11 p.m.
BLAKE'S. "Bingo with Bubba & Jeffrey," 7 p.m. DJ Greg Dean spins at 9 p.m.
CHAPARRAL. Latin night. Pouring until 4 a.m.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret. Club open 9 p.m.-3 a.m., continuous show 11 p.m.-3 a.m.
HERETIC. "SWEAT" w/ DJ Rick Walsh. 10 p.m. No cover before 11 p.m.
JUNGLE. "Viva Para la Danza" Latin night. Latin beats and rhythms all night. Special performances by Monica Layne and Myah Monroe. Doors open 10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Nicole Paige Brooks and Girlzz of LeBuzz talent competition, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Boys' Room" with Stewart, 9 p.m.
OSCARS. Afternoon showtunes. "Martinis, Men & Music Videos," 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Tapas menu. Music videos. No cover.
STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. "2-4-1 T-Shirt Review."
WETbar. "Hot, WET & Wired Weekdays" free wireless internet starting 5:30 p.m. "Splash Fridays" featuring WETboys.

SAT 08.27

ARMORY. Patio bar 3 p.m.-3 a.m. Wassup-n-Atl 10 p.m. "Glamazons," 11 p.m.
BLAKES. "Let's Make a Diva Deal" 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. 'Saturday Showcase' with Mary Edith Pitts and Kitty LeClaw, 11 p.m.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret. Club open 9 p.m.-3 a.m., continuous show 11 p.m.-3 a.m.
CLUB X. WERK ... HARD presents DJ Chad Jack. Doors open midnight.
HERETIC. DJ Brian Beck. 10 p.m. No cover before 11 p.m.
JUNGLE. DJ Tony Moran. Doors open 10 p.m.
LeBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz" drag show hosted by Tequila Mockingbird, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Mary-oke" with CJ, 10 p.m.
METRO. "Caliente!" Latin dance party w/DJ Martin 10 p.m.
MODEL T. "Model Teez Girlz" drag show, 11 p.m.
OSCARS. High energy videos w/VJ Das Wright, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Girlz Night Out, female DJ, $5 after 10 p.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. 2-4-1 T-Shirt review.
TRIPPS. 1st and 3rd Saturdays: Linda Michaels' "Showcase Showdown," 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m
WETBAR. DJ Greg Dean, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

SUN 08.28

BLAKE'S. "Big Time!" drag revue with Shabazz, Jealousé, Myah Monroe, and guests.
BUDDIES. Free cookout, 6 p.m. "Sweet Inspiration" with Tina Devore, Alicia Kelly and cast, 8 p.m.

BULLDOGS. Old school, house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. The Armorettes, 9 p.m.
CHAPARRAL. Hip hop night featuring Maxine Blue. Pouring until 3 a.m.
EAGLE. "Retro Sundays" '70s and '80s music.
HERETIC. "RELEASE" w/ DJ Rick Walsh. 8 p.m.-midnight. No cover.
RED CHAIR. Sunday brunch, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. "Red Carpet Revue" with Tina Devore and cast, 8-10 p.m.
STAGE DOOR. T-dance 3-6 p.m. 1st and 3rd Sun.: the Tuckerettes, 2nd and 4th: Victoria Diamond's Cabaret.

MON 08.29

BLAKE'S. "Princess and the Drag Races," 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke with Tyler, midnight.
EAGLE. Free pool and rock music.
HERETIC. Free pool and darts, 7-10 p.m. Special guest DJ 10 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Bingo with Jim & Baton Bob, 8-10 p.m.
JUNGLE. Salsa dance class, $5, 7-10 p.m. "Stars of the Century" w/Niesha Dupree, 11 p.m. $7 cover.
LeBUZZ. "Lady LeBuzz" drag kings and drag queens show hosted by Heather Daniels, 10 p.m.
MARY'S. "Jump Start" your weekend early with guest DJ's and video game showdowns.
METRO. DJ Randy McDaniels, 10 p.m. Industry Night presents "Shawnna Brooks' Mad Monday Revue" with Ashley Kruiz, midnight.
NICKIEMOTO'S. "Dragamaki" w/Bubba D. Licious, 8:45 p.m.
OSCARS. Service industry night, 9 p.m.
WOOFS. Texas Hold-Em. No entry fee, prizes and more.

TUE 08.30

BLAKE'S. "Family" Feud w/Mary Edith Pitts, 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke with Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
EAGLE. Free pool, rock music. Open 8 p.m.
GILBERT'S MEDITERRANEAN CAFÉ. "Navel" male belly dancing, 9:30 p.m.
HERETIC. Free pool and darts, 7-10 p.m. Special guest DJ 10 p.m.
HOEDOWN'S. Free beginner two-step dance lessons, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Bingo with Tom & Jim, 8-10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Karaoke with Alexandria Martin, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Mary-oke" with CJ, 10 p.m.
METRO. "DJ Martin's Latin House," 10 p.m. "Caras Nuevas" with Mama Mia Alegria, midnight.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. "Bingo with prizes, 9 p.m.
STAGE DOOR. Texas Hold 'Em, 7:30 p.m.
WETBAR. "Hot, WET & Wired Weekdays" free wireless internet, 5:30 p.m.

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JAIL BAIT

'Scandal!' series continues popular run of improv shows

THE VERY IDEA SETS THE MIND TO WANDERING: an all-male cast in an improv show set in a prison.

The possibilities are endless for the latest incarnation of the ongoing Dad's Garage oddball "Scandal!" series. The show, part of the theater's extremely successful improvisational line-up, runs late night on Fridays.

"Scandal!" became part of the troupe's line-up more than nine years ago, with performers ad-libbing within a broad storyline. This go-round, the Dad's crowd finds itself behind the cold steel bars of the Little 5 Points Penitentiary.

Plotlines meander throughout the run of the show as the actor's work together to create shows that are never quite the same twice. Sadly, much of what gay audiences may hope for never comes to fruition in the final product.

Characters include stereotypically flaming Bruce Brüce; Rusty Trombonz, the cantankerous cane-welding inmate desperately searching for hidden booty; lovers Ronni Peterson, set for execution, and Dexter Dewey; hard-ass corrections officer Hoss Hardacre; drug-addicted Arman Redder and clownish Wayne Bo Casey.

Despite the none-too-flattering stereotype from Double Bruce, the show still offers strong moments, and the cast clearly has a good time playing out the plots to their most bizarre and preposterous conclusions.

The audience is a diverse mix of theater fans and hip L5P denizens who share the laughs and buckets of beer.

THIS IS CERTAINLY NOT THE STUFF OF HBO'S "Oz," but it takes a great deal of creativity to make a comedy out of a prison melodrama.

This crew pulls it off in spades.

Improv comedy is not an easy thing to do well, but this cast makes it look almost easy as they riff and roar through the production. The crew confirms that they can play it by ear — and play it to the hilt for chuckles.

There are some lapses in the humor and breaks in the acting, but the narrator keeps things on track and moves the wacky story deftly from scene to scene.

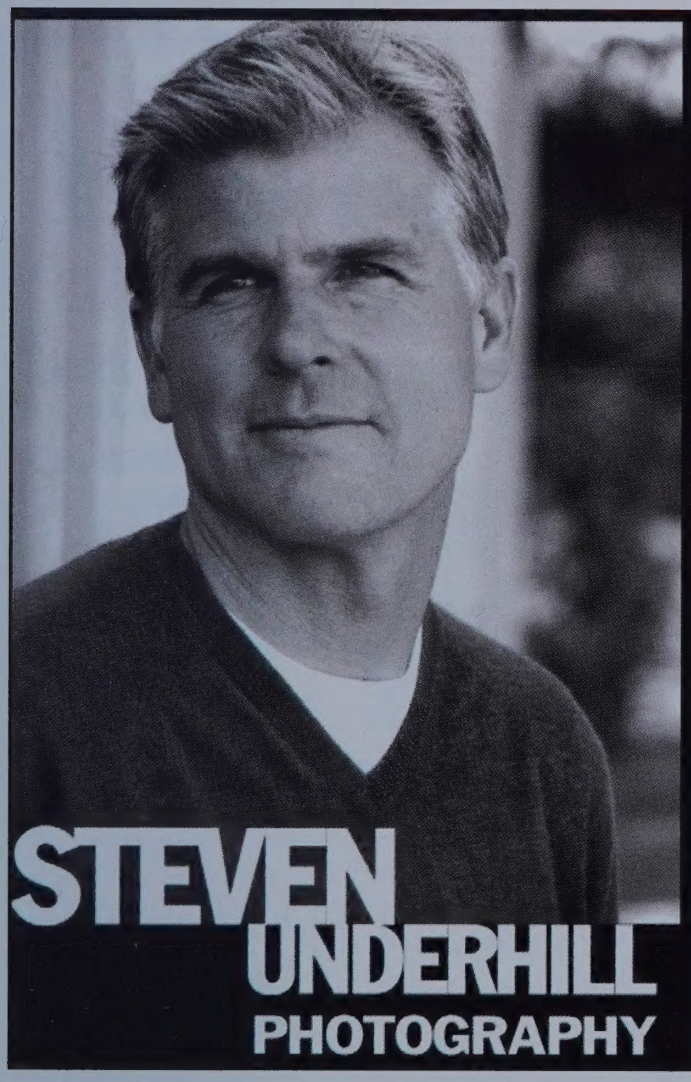
DAD'S BUILT ITS FUN-LOVING, ORIGINAL AND irreverent reputation with a mix of plays and improvisational shows — so much so that the theater now offers improv classes. Theatergoers make a habit of dropping by to track the latest works by Atlanta's favorite merrymakers.

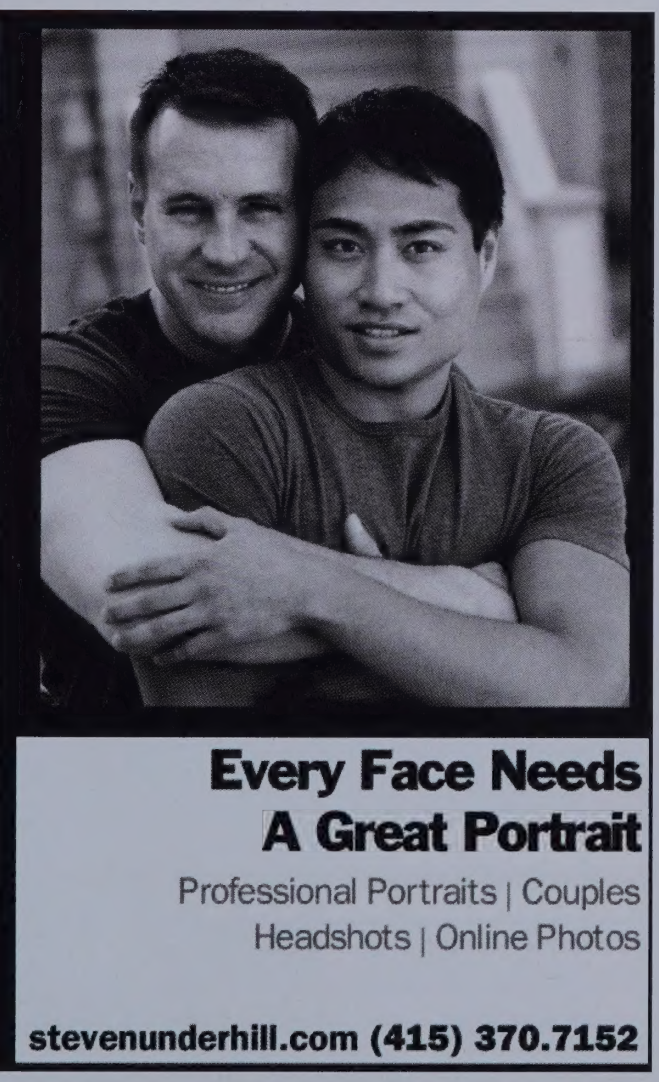
In addition to the Friday night "Scandal!" series, the theater is also currently staging a psychology-based improv comedy, "Ask Dr. Frapples," on Saturday nights, and their popular late night "Theatresports," which pits two teams of improvisers in a "death match" of unscripted theater.

In addition to local work, the theater just announced it's hosting a national improv tournament over Labor Day weekend with competing troupes from around the country.

Sure, improv can be sophomoric and oftentimes silly, and it's never as cutting or deep as a scripted show. But there is something entertaining about a cast of performers who can think on their feet and turn a parody into an episodic extravaganza week after week.

"Scandal!" starts at 10:30 p.m. on Fridays through Aug. 26 at Dad's Garage, 280 Elizabeth St., $13, www.dadsgarage.com.





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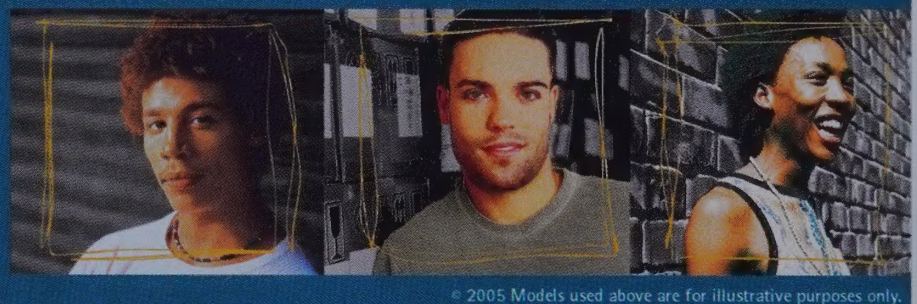

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August 31, 2005
7:00–9:00 p.m.

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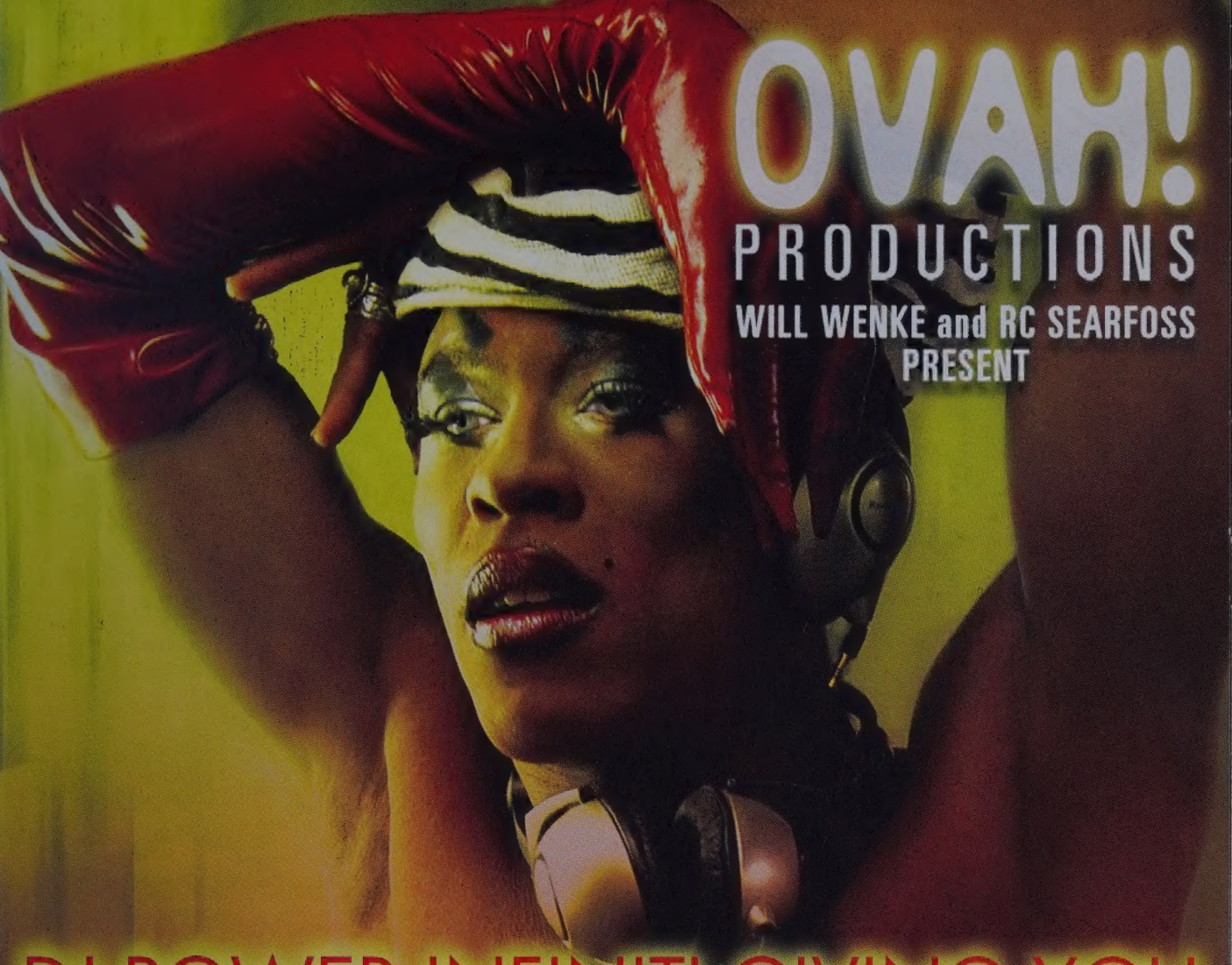

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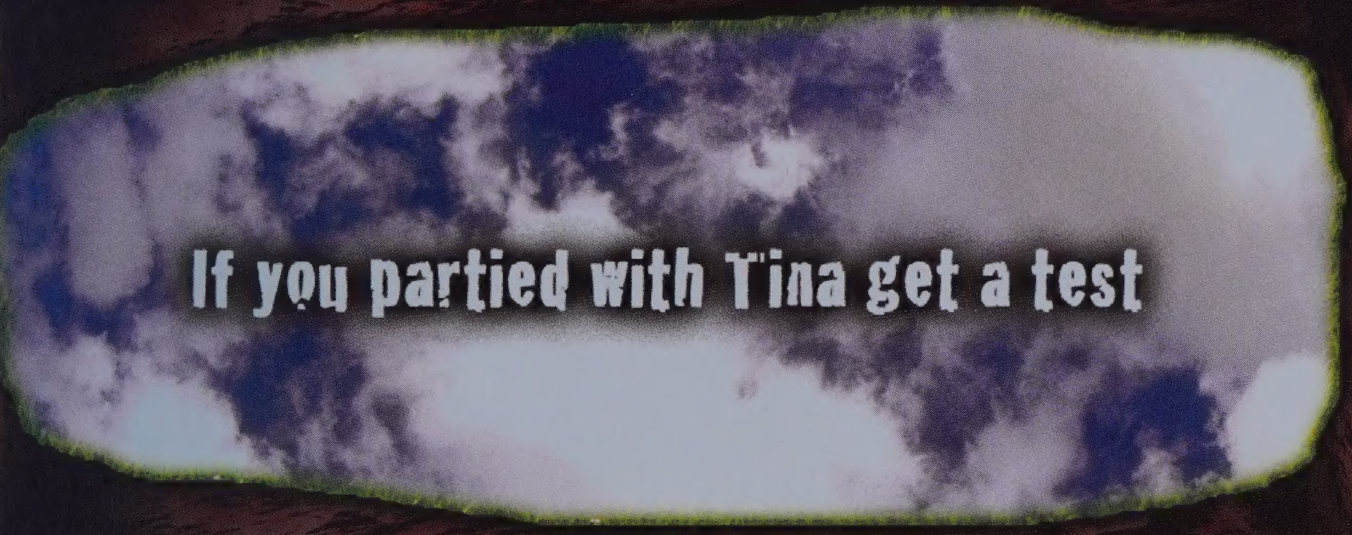

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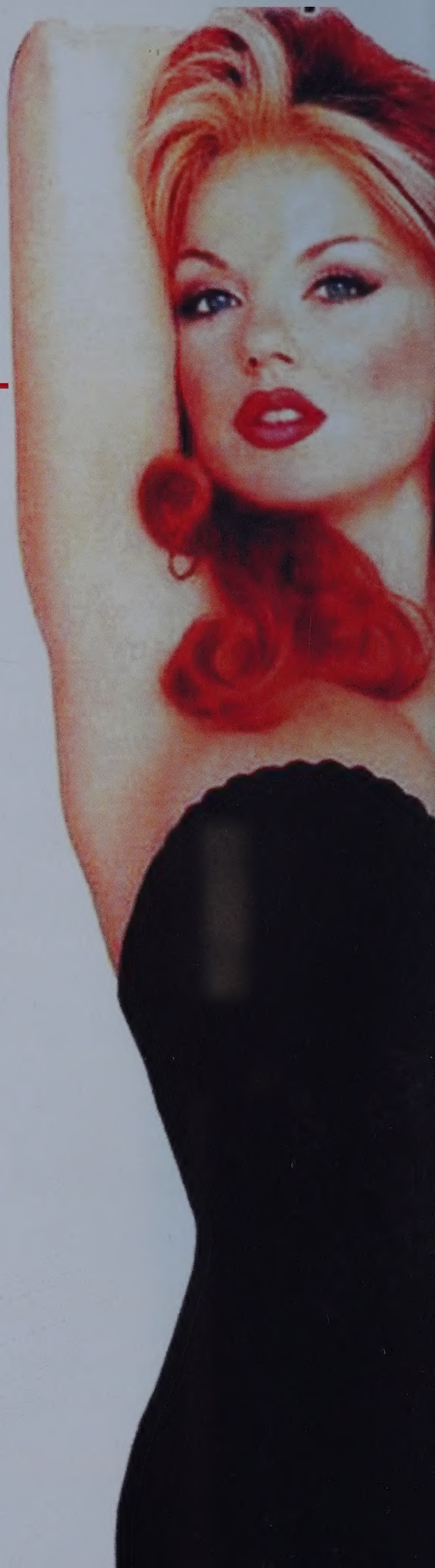
WHAT YOU REALLY, **REALLY** WANT

Former Spice Girl serves up fun disc **full of 'Passion'**



WITH HER TRADEMARK BRASH STYLE, GERI HALLIWELL returns to the pop music scene with her latest import release, "Passion." The CD, her third as a solo artist, is filled with up-tempo, remix-ready tracks that listeners expect from Halliwell, who doesn't shy away from the "pop music" label.

"I have always loved pop music," Halliwell writes on her Web site. "'Pop' became a dirty word for a while, but it doesn't have to be crap. It doesn't have to be manufactured, soulless, heartless. There is soulful pop out there that is running on a heartbeat and a lot of fire and energy."

The lead single, "Ride It," already received the Midas touch from superstar DJ Hex Hector, among others. But going against Halliwell's assertions on her Web site, the track is a catchy but disposable piece of pop, with lyrics like, "You're a DJ, I'm a song/ Take me out and turn me on/ Let yourself go."

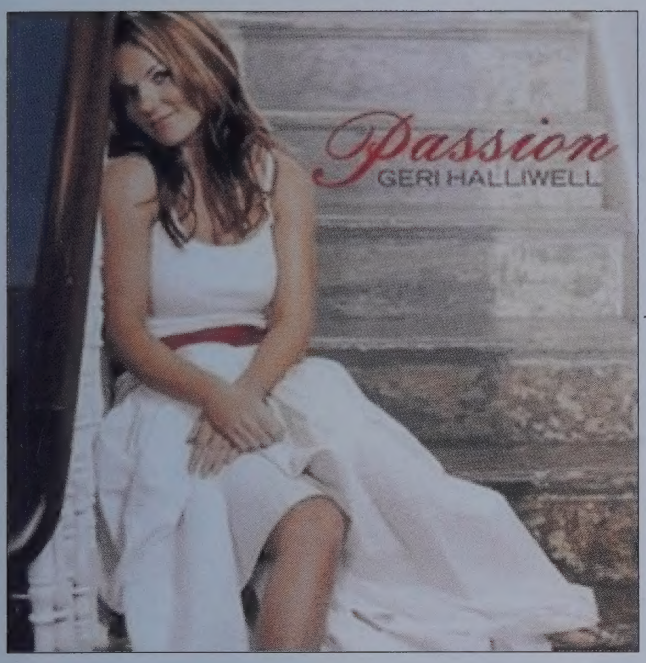
It's doubtful "Ride It" can take home any awards for outstanding songwriting, but it is still fun on the dance floor.

"Desire," the second single, makes a much stronger showing. The music is dramatic enough for any drag show, and the lyrics range from breathy to bold.

Bimbo Jones and Shanghai Surprize contribute remixes for the single. Jones' version is fun to listen to, and the Shanghai Surprize remix is more dance floor-friendly.

"SUPERSTAR," "SURRENDER YOUR GROOVE," AND "Love Never Loved Me" are more examples of Halliwell's trademark up-tempo numbers, with hopeful lyrics and toe-tapping beats. "Feel the Fear," "There's Always Tomorrow," and "Let Me Love You More" are typical Halliwell ballads in which she croons about heartache, love and romance.

"There's Always Tomorrow" is dedicated to "Kenny



and George in St. Tropez," apparently a reference to George Michael and his partner, Kenny Goss. Michael gave Halliwell shelter as she recovered from her split from the Spice Girls and the ensuing backlash from fans.

The album is opened and closed by cabaret-like tracks that just scream "Drag queens, perform us!" The opening track, "Passion," is an ode to the undeniable draw between two people in love.

"So I Give Up on Love," on the other hand, closes the album with plenty of sass and brass as Halliwell declares she is done with men. Does that explain those pesky Internet rumors about her being a lesbian? Hmmm ...

The track could also be a peek inside the mind of any gay man. Halliwell sings of finding faults with potential suitors: "There was David/ when he got naked/ he didn't have much up/ or downstairs."

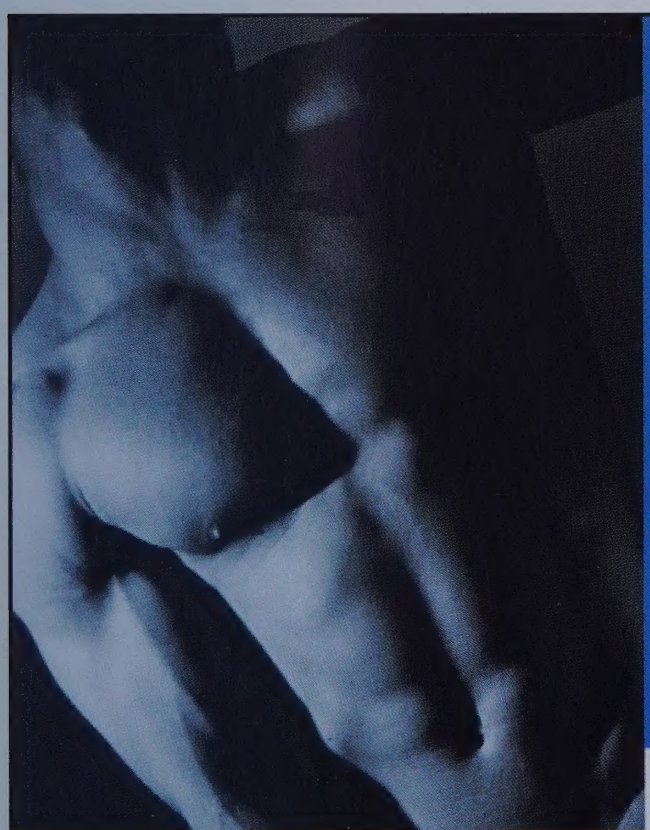
"Passion" and "Give Up on Love" serve as fitting bookends to the album, introducing and wrapping up Halliwell's moods perfectly.

GAY MEN THE WORLD OVER FELL IN LOVE WITH Halliwell's flamboyant antics as Ginger Spice, part of the 90's juggernaut pop group the Spice Girls. She gives a shout-out to her former band mates in the liner notes of "Passion," which probably fuels the perpetual Internet rumors of a Spice Girl reunion.

"Passion," while delightful, probably won't win Halliwell any new fans, especially in the good ol' U-S-of-A, since import prices are often almost twice as expensive as domestic CD releases.

But existing fans are sure to love the bouncy new CD for its newly-minted, fresh tracks and Halliwell's signature pluck and sparkle.

'Passion' is available on EMI as an import release. www.geri-halliwell.com.



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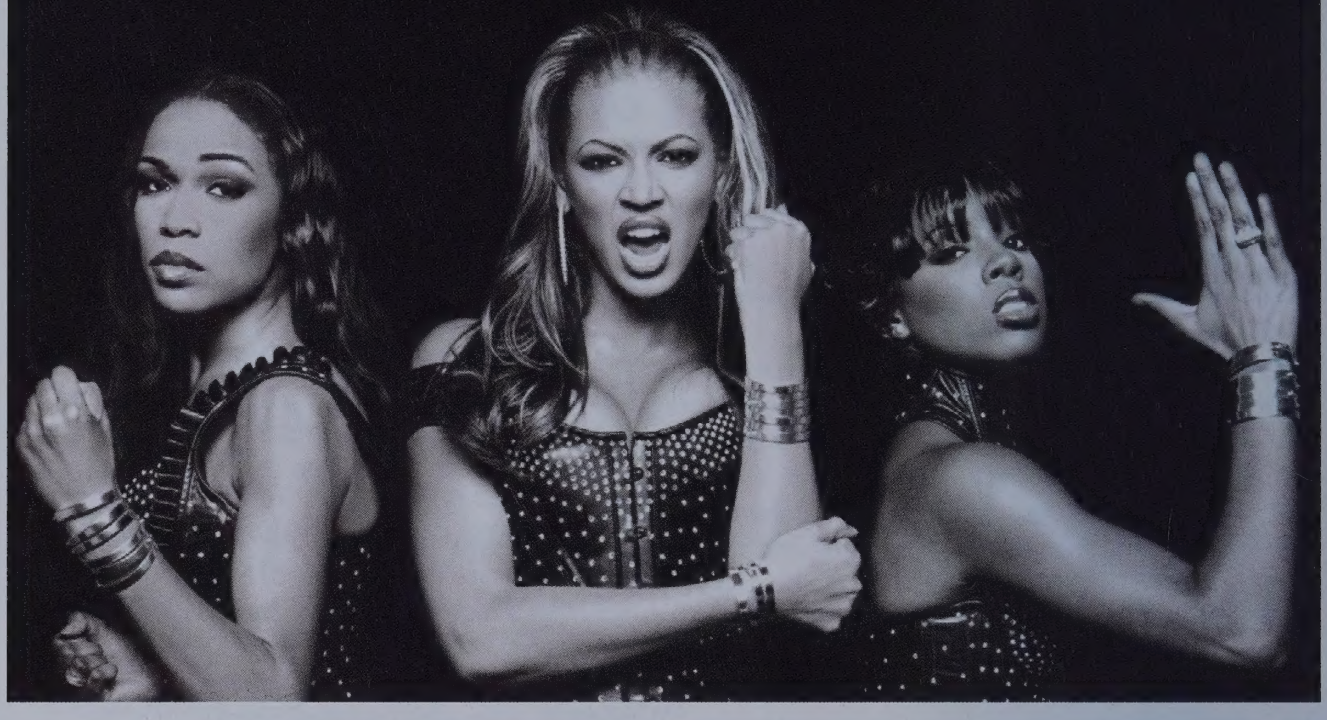

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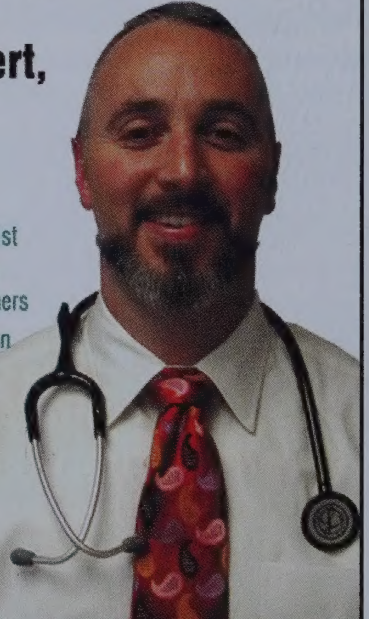

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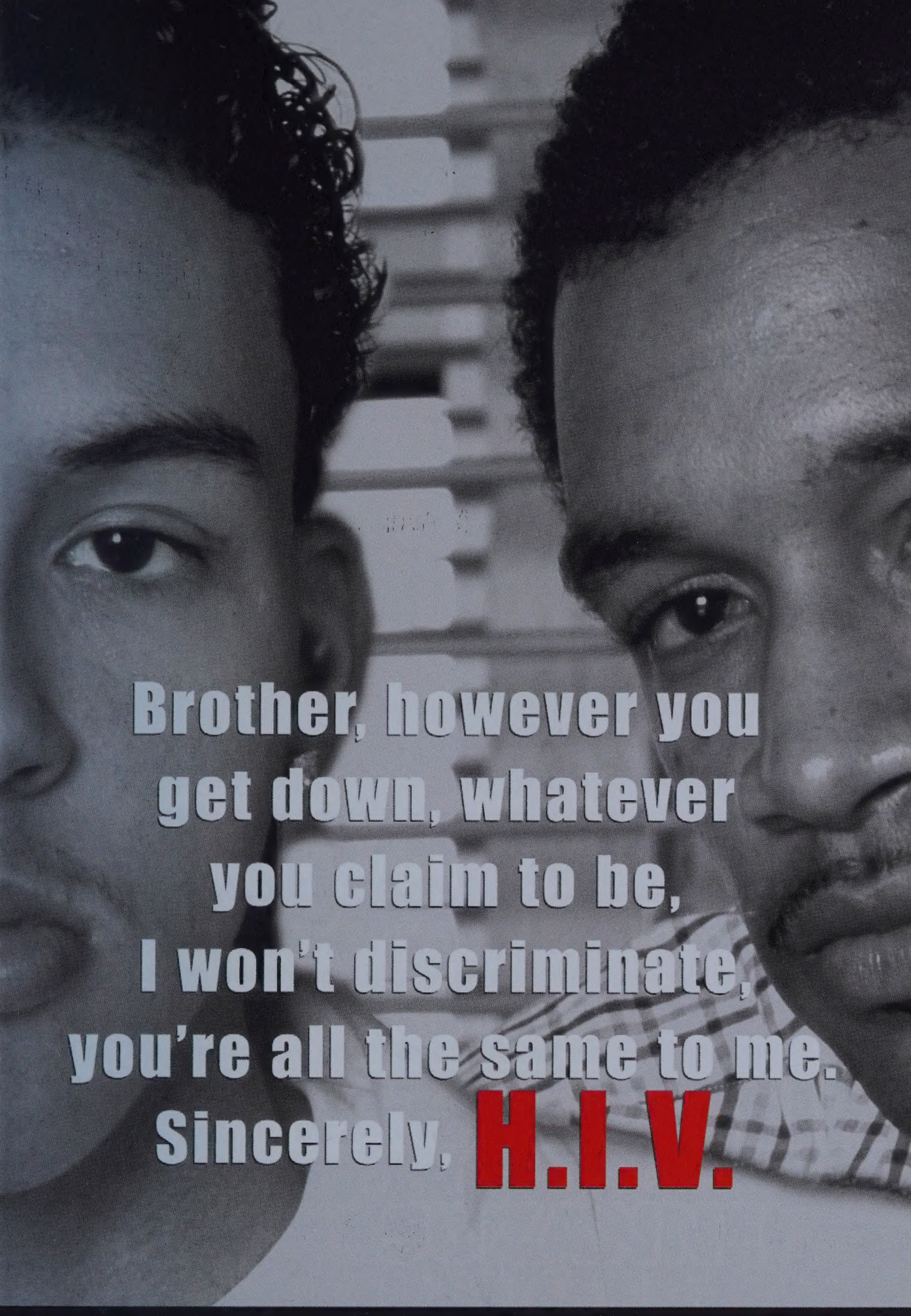

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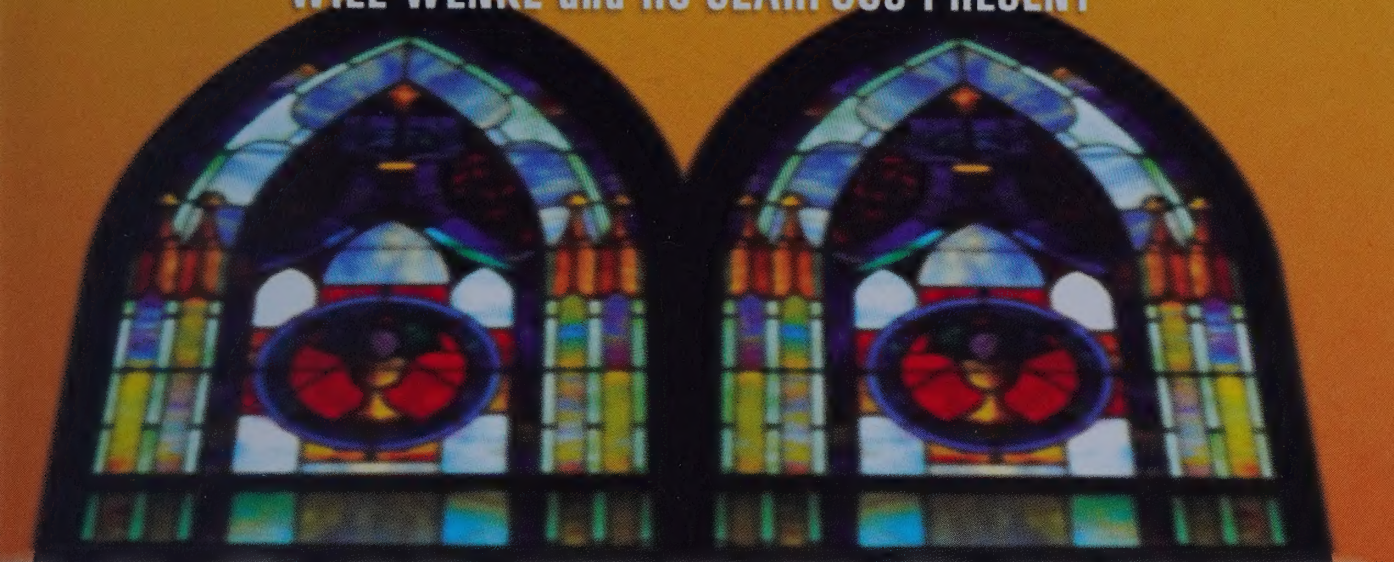

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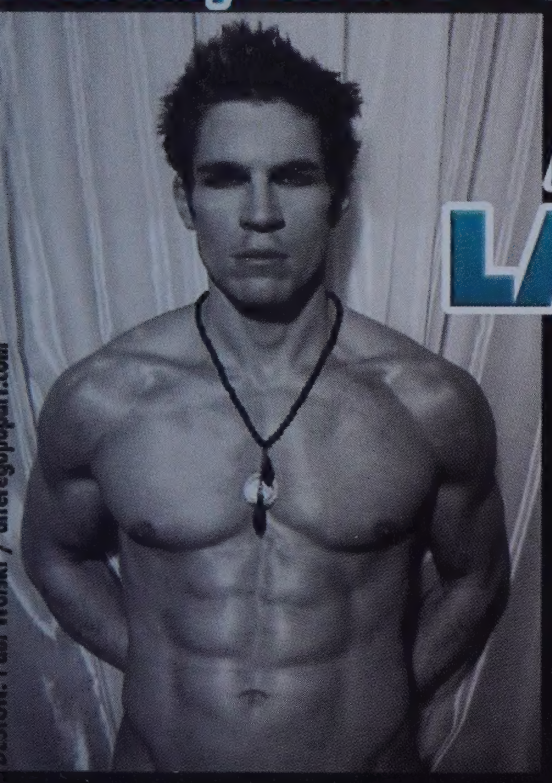
SUNDAY, SEPT. 4 • THE ABBEY • 6 PM-MIDNIGHT



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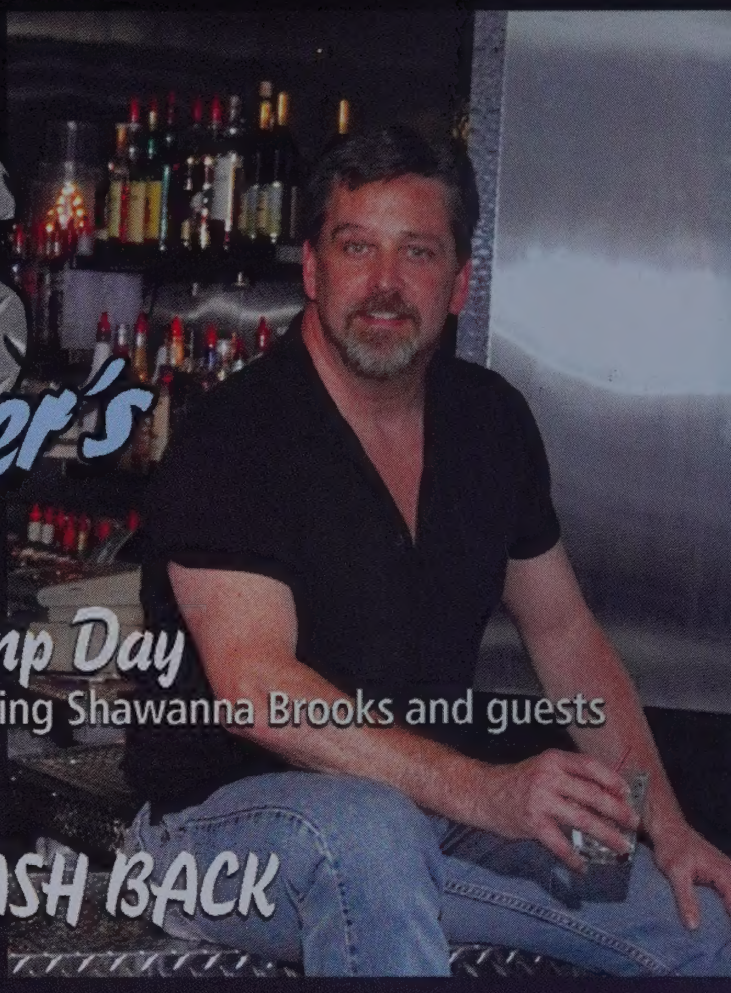

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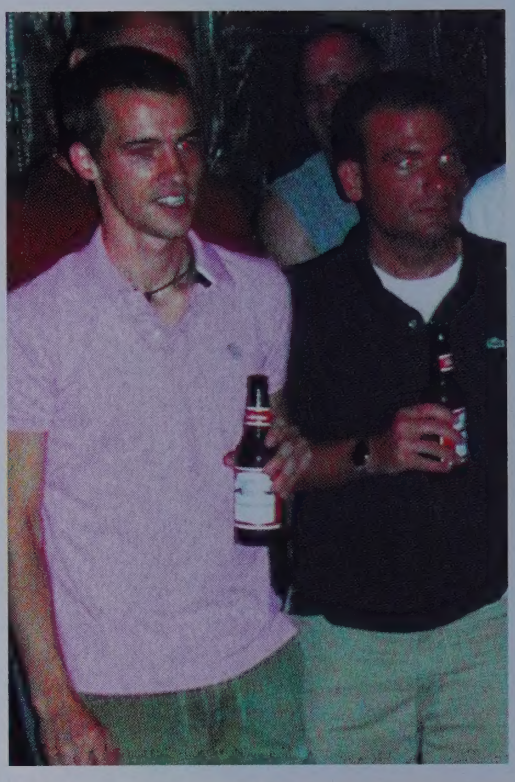

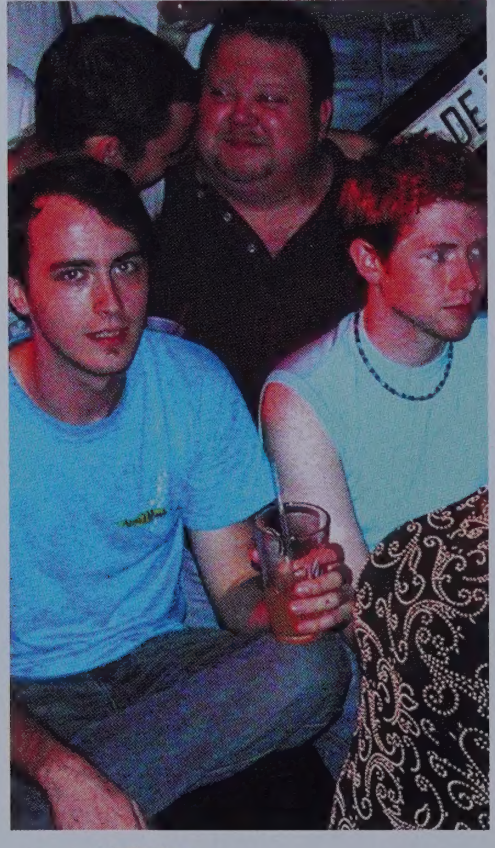

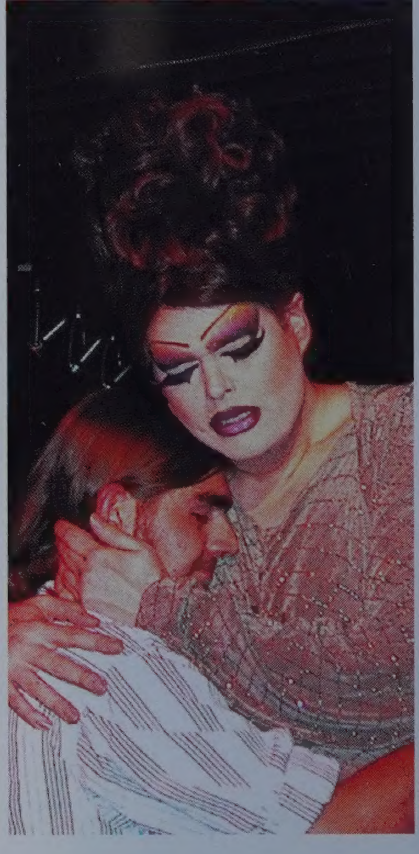

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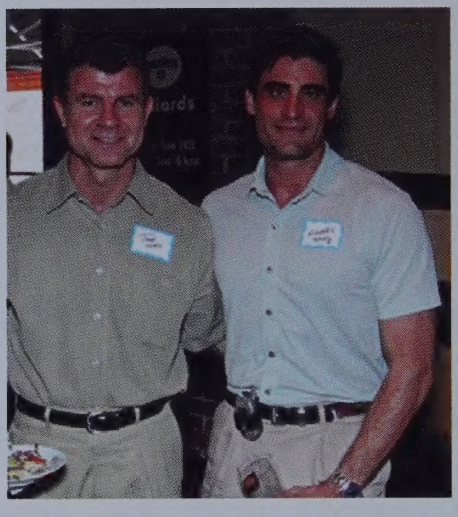

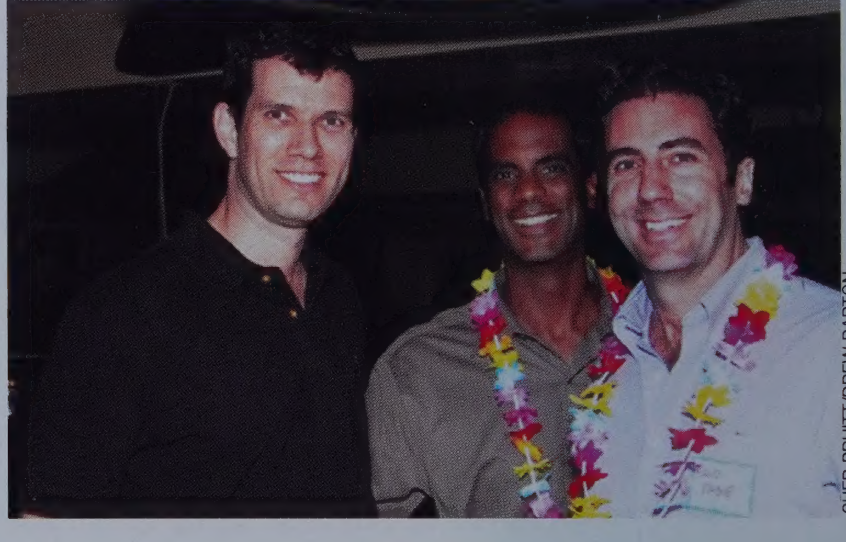

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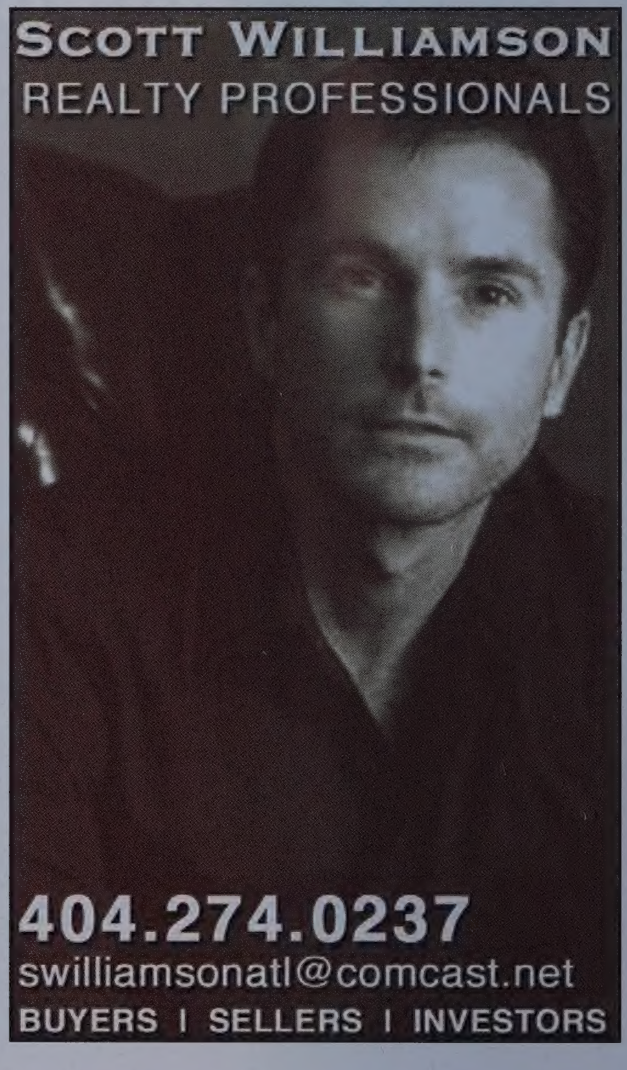
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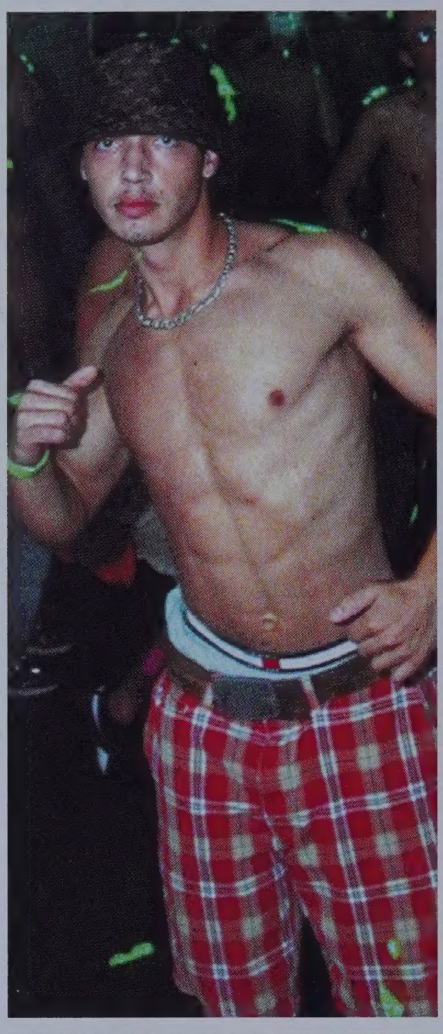

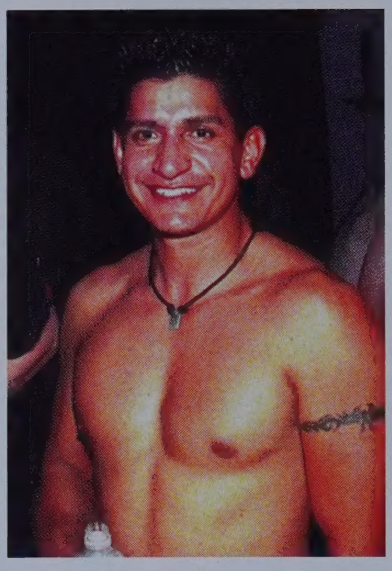

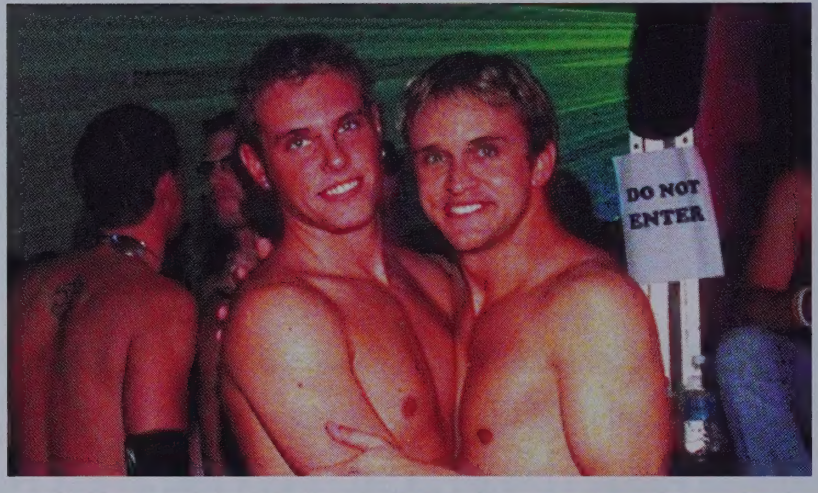

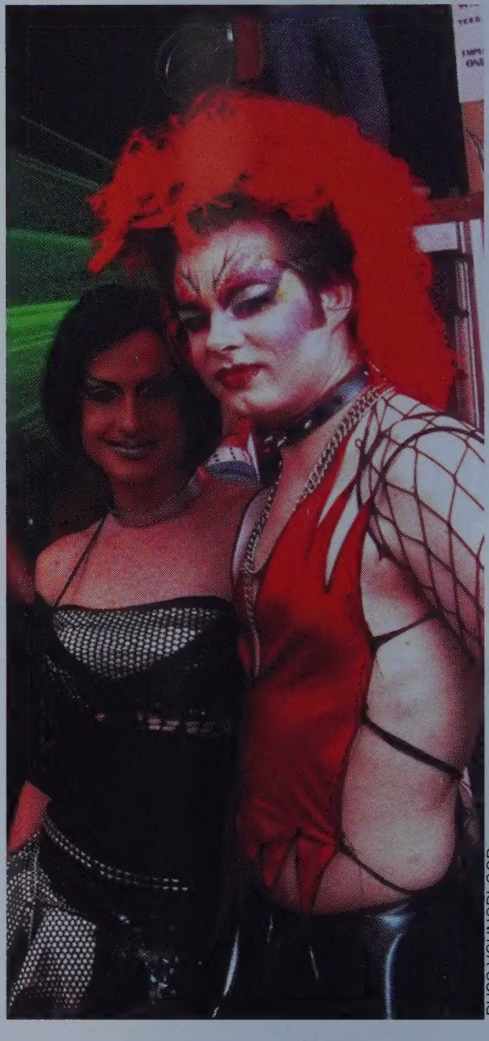

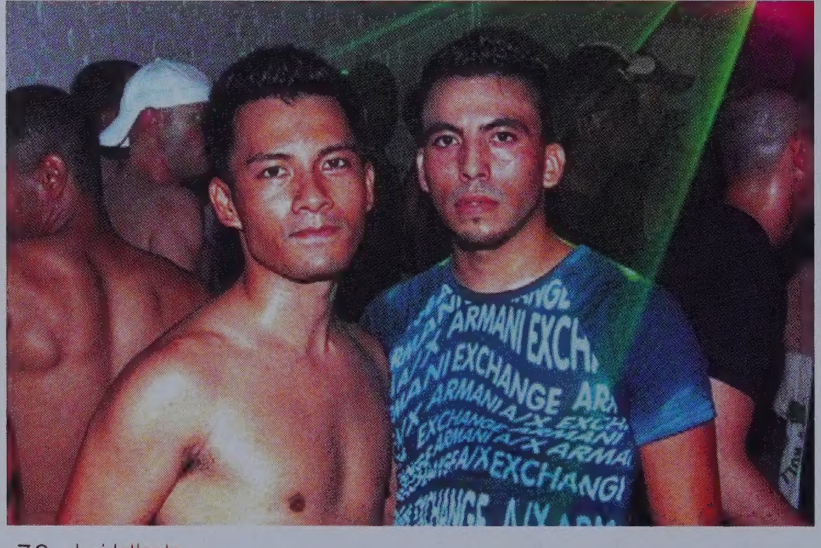

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BRAD... THAT'S A HORRIBLE WAY TO DESCRIBE HIM!
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...GOOD MORNING.
GEE, BIG GUY... IF YOUR FACE TURNS ANY REDDER, YOU MIGHT BUST A BLOOD VESSEL.
LOOK, MAN... I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN...
WHATEVER.
SO... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, ANYWAY?
BRAD!
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, KYLE. I DON'T MIND.
I WENT A COUPLA' ROUNDS WITH WOLVERINE.
THAT GUY IS ONE TOUGH CUSTOMER.
AND THOSE CLAWS OF HIS?
WELL... YOU CAN SEE THE RESULT.
JEEZ. YOU WANNA' CAN THE COMEDY AND TELL ME WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?
9/11 IS WHAT HAPPENED.
9/11 ?!! YOU WERE THERE ?! AT GROUND ZERO ?!!
UH-HUH. I WAS A COMPUTER TECH AT AN INSURANCE FIRM IN THE SOUTH TOWER. I GOT OUT JUST AS THE TOWER WAS CRUMBLING. THEY SAID I WAS LUCKY.
I WASN'T SO SURE ABOUT THAT. AT FIRST.
WOW. I GOTTA' GO TO BASEBALL PRACTICE, BUT...
...WE GOTTA' TALK LATER ABOUT THIS!
I'LL COUNT THE HOURS.
YOU GO KNOCK 'EM DEAD, SLUGGER.
GregFox © 2005
SO, IS THIS GONNA' BE A PROBLEM HAVIN' ME STAY HERE, KYLE? I DON'T WANNA' SCARE OFF YOUR GUESTS.
PLEASE. I THINK MY VEGGIE BACON IS THE ONLY THING LIKELY TO SCARE OFF GUESTS.
BESIDES... HAVING A GUY WHO CAN FIX COMPUTERS LIVING HERE? YOU EVEN TRY TO LEAVE AND I'LL BREAK YOUR SPOKES!
HAHAHA. YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, KYLE.
THIS VEGGIE BACON, THOUGH? IT IS A LITTLE SCARY.
÷SIGH÷ SOME PEOPLE REALLY LIKE IT, DAVID.
YEAH, WELL... SOME PEOPLE LIKE EATING CORNFLAKES WITH KETCHUP, TOO, KYLE...

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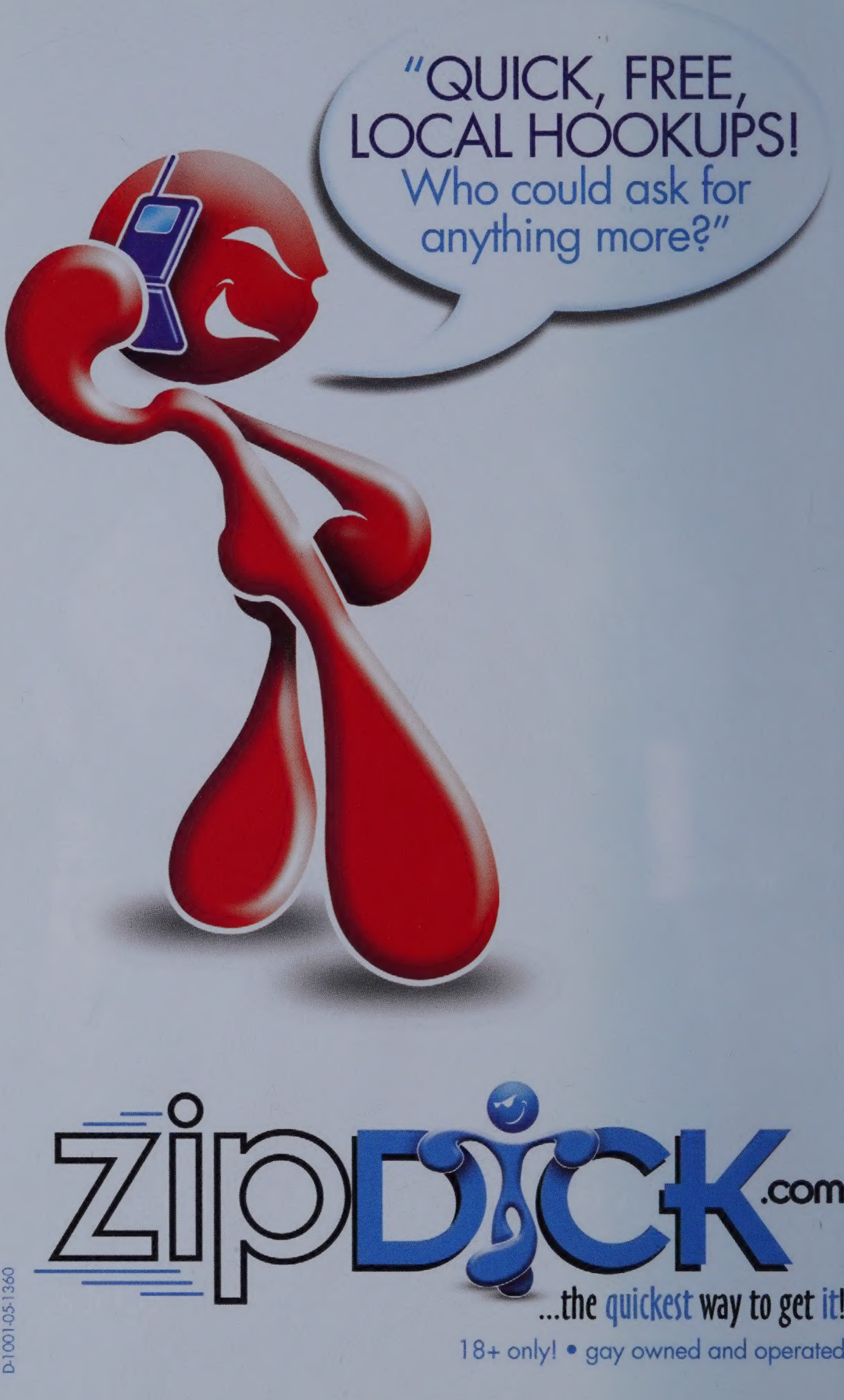
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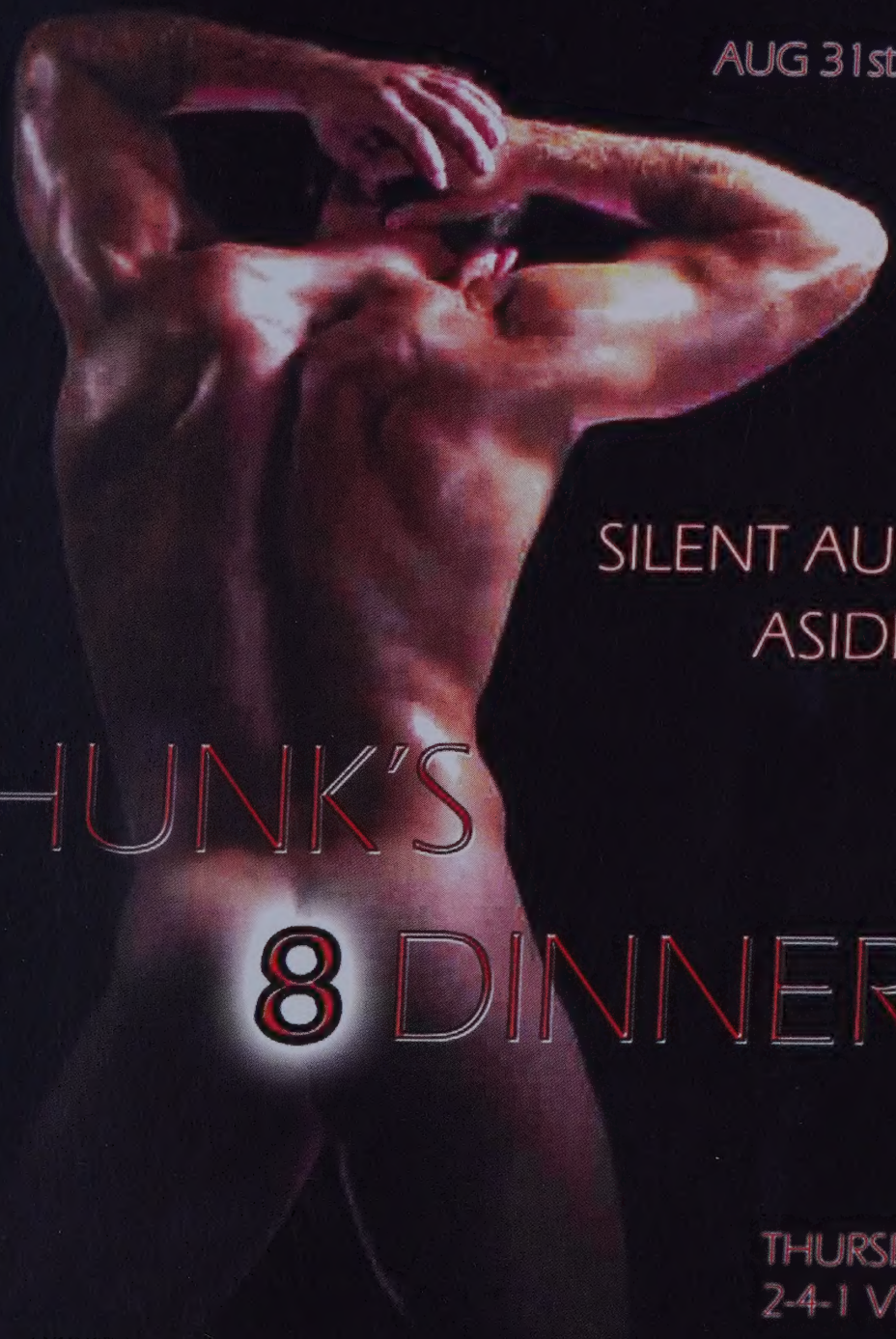

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The THRILL is GONE

Once you lose that 'new man smell,' it takes more than sex to **keep him home.**

HEY WOODY!

I had to reply to the "stability and electricity" column on the guy trying to choose between an average nice guy (single) and the electric sex partner (married). Here is my true story to warn anybody who's having or thinking about having an affair with a man in a long-term relationship.

I dated a guy who was with his boyfriend for ten years. All I can say is, men in a ten-year relationship are not looking for companionship. They have that at home. They're looking for hot sex. Period.

Yeah, I'm one of the few who got his man to leave his partner. Lucky me. Now he's so riddled with guilt that he places his ex on a pedestal so high that I can't even begin to reach it.

I can't cook, clean, mop, buy a car, park the car, drive, eat, shut a door, buy groceries, buy gifts, walk, make a drink, answer the phone, change the channel, sit on the sofa, speak, piss, get a haircut, drink coffee, stir coffee, log onto Internet, or pick a restaurant correctly.

All of these things you won't see while you are busy fucking behind his lover's back. But steal this man, and you will see that you were better off not knowing him.

After time, I wasn't satisfying his sexual needs either. I was too horny, too needy, came onto him too much, wasn't horny when he needed it. Our passionate sessions decreased.

After all, the cheater is in control. He chose when and where. It was sex on his terms, not mine. He kept that control even when he became my partner.

You can rest assured that the one thing I can't count on is trust. After all, he was cheating when he met me. Don't let your readers make the same horrible mistake I did.

— HOME WRECKER

DEAR HOME WRECKER:

Like I said, studies show that as little as 10 percent of men cheating actually leave the relationship.

And the few who do end up leaving their partners often end up leaving their new lovers in tatters. Like you.

Sizzling sex and pass-out passion can bring you together, but they can't keep you together. That's because a relationship based on sex will fall apart if there isn't anything else to prop it up.

It's like a car. Once that "New Man Smell" goes away, the thrill disappears. It's contentment, fulfillment, genuine love and friendship that keep a relationship going, not sex.

I agree with you: If you start falling for a "married" man, run don't walk. You've got a better chance of crawling through broken glass without bleeding than getting him to leave his partner.

And if he does, you run a very high risk of becoming the next victim.

HEY, WOODY!

I like to give head, but my mouth is so dry all the time. How can I get my mouth more watery and slobbery?

— GIVING HEAD ACHES

DEAR GIVING:

Ain't nothing worse than giving a dry blowjob. It's like eating a salad without dressing. Assuming there isn't a medical reason for the dryness, here are a few tricks that'll make you a saliva factory:

Lemons. Saliva is excreted to fight the acidity of the fruit. Just thinking about it activates the reflex.

Tongue action. Put the tip of your tongue to the roof of your mouth as far back as it'll go. Hold for about 20 seconds. Can you feel the saliva pooling underneath your tongue?

Candy. Sucking on a sour hard candy before sex activates the saliva glands.

Now, go. Blow.

Woody is the author of 'Men Are Pigs But We Love Bacon.' Reach him at needwood@mac.com.

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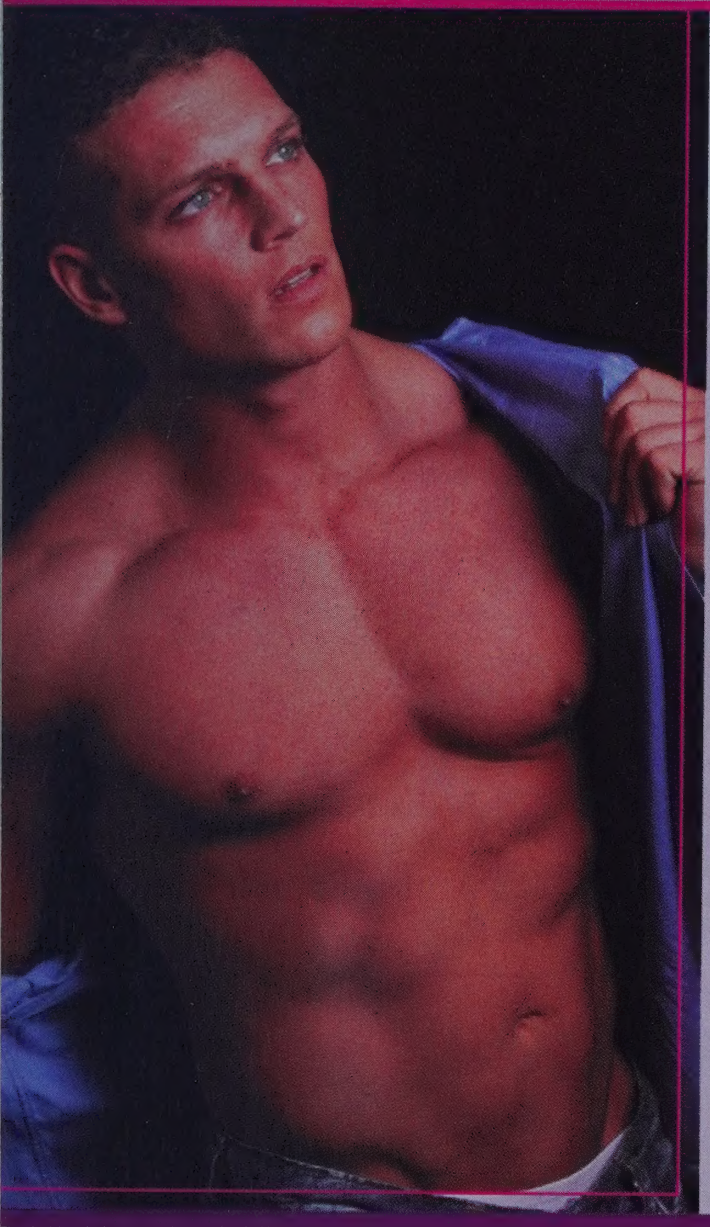

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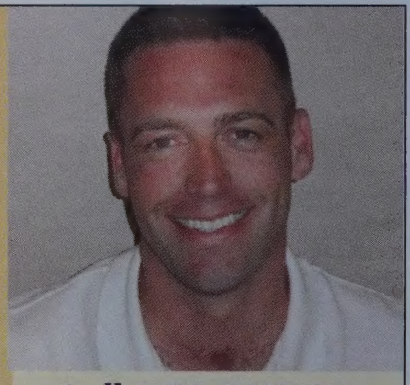

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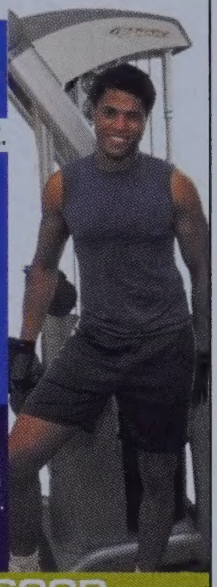

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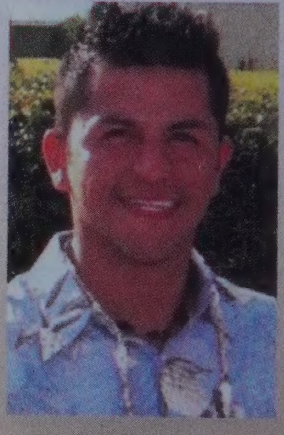

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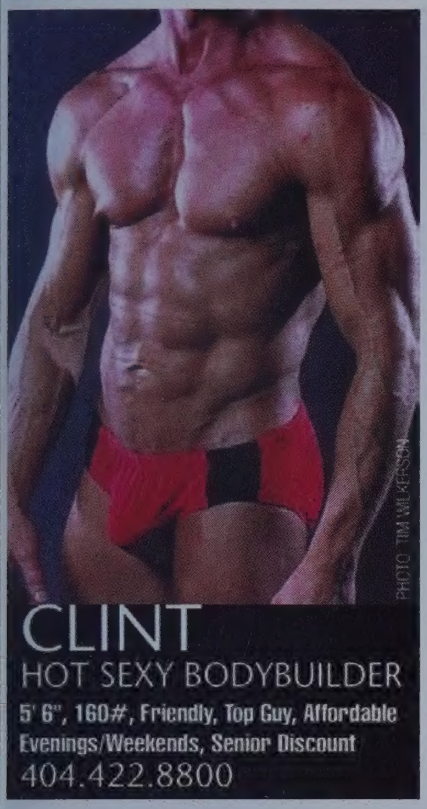

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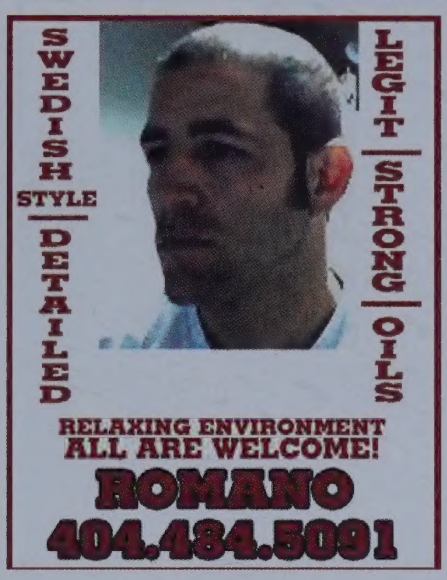

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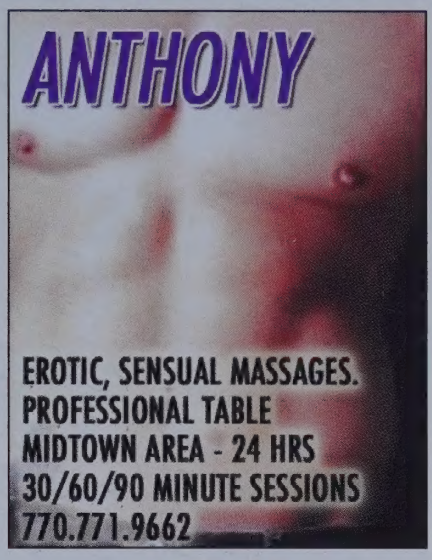

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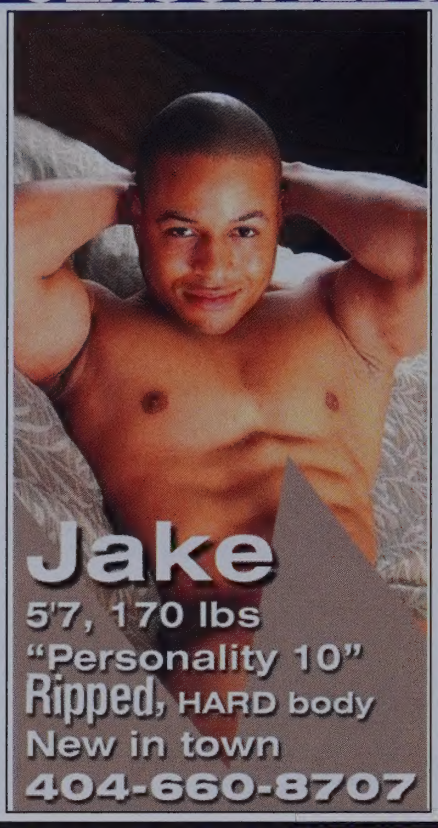

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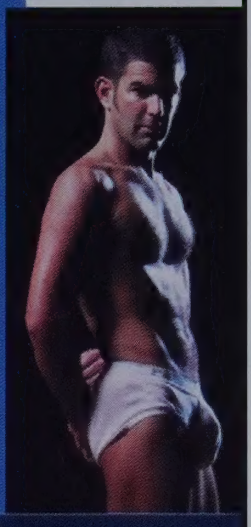

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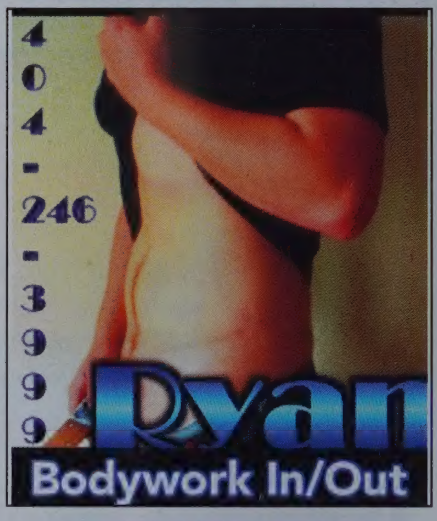

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BITCHSESSION

I wish husbands would come with "sexpiration" dates on them. Who knew I'd be tricking behind his back just a year into it?

Why do so many homos think that if you talk to them, you want their counseling on some flaw they find in you? If I want counseling, I'll get it from somebody with decent credentials. Not some tired bar fag.

> "Why are we so hot to claim a whack job like Tom Cruise as one of our own?"

Wearing colorful T-shirts that offset, if not compliment, my outer shirt is fashionable, not stupid. Telling me it's stupid only means you have no taste. Same goes for my underwear. I'm not dressing to please the world, just myself.

This entire "Bitch Session" is pathetic, along with the people who write them. I just spent 10 minutes reading this queeny, judgmental, asinine nonsense. All of this is just mean, spiteful attacks on ourselves. Stop adding to the negative stereotypes of gays.
Bitch Boy responds: Thanks be to your lil' ray of sunshine for countering the stereotype!

Just because I am young and hung does not give you the right to treat me like a whore. I am well educated, and I am not a whore. I am a slut.

There should be a place in the queer community for those of us who neither do crystal nor worship crystals.

To the bitch who refuses to go into any bar that charges a cover: Bars are businesses, and their expenses and payrolls do not magically fund themselves.
In certain circles, the phrase "boi" indicates submission, not youth obsession.

You might be a drag queen if ... you sing karaoke and choose to perform a ballad.
Get your drink, go to the bathroom, talk to your friends, bum your cigarette, and change in your dollar-bill for quarters before we call your name to play pool!

Why do you come into a chatroom referring to yourself as "bi-closeted"? That's the oldest gay oxymoron in the book!

Music from the 90s is not "retro." If you're gong to hire a DJ for "retro" night, make sure he was out of diapers at least by 1980.

I got a bitch about unfair housing prices and men who leave tattoos on their girlfriends.
Bitch Boy responds: Umm, I think you have the wrong "Bitch Session."

To the queen who said real men use bars of soap: Real men actually don't give a damn what they use. Only image-obsessed gay boys are concerned about whether what they consume gives off the image they want to project.

Just because I'm a handsome, late-20s Brazilian who likes men over 65 doesn't make me a hustler. I have a real job, make lots of my own money and have my own $650,000 condo. It's my fetish, so quit spreading rumors!

Maybe some of us wear those "tired yellow rubber Armstrong cancer bands" because we have lost loved ones to this horrible illness. Have some compassion.

Every bitchy queen ought to be sentenced to four years in Mexico City, where if you show your anger or dislike for someone, you are instantly surrounded by four armed policemen.

Why do guys always stop in front of me and block everyone else's view of me? And it's almost always a guy who should be hiding in the dark corner of the room.

I don't have to stay my "stuck-up ass" at home to avoid stalkers at the bars. What I need is to have the losers leave me the hell alone. I don't owe anyone my body just because they want it for the night.

Bitch Boy's comments are meant to be amusing, as opposed to your comments, which were just low-grade whining. Love your column, Bitch Boy!

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